



THE NOE VALLEY VOICE

Diagonal Parking on Castro Street Could Add 100 Spaces

By Loren J. Bialik

Is the answer to Noe Valley's parking crunch hidden in a 1941 photo of Castro Street?

Robert Roddick, a 51-year-old attorney who with his wife, Nancy, runs a law office at 1330 Castro St., thinks it might be.

Roddick, who was born and raised in Noe Valley, first noticed the old photo hanging on the wall of Hopwell's Restaurant on 24th Street. At the top of the picture (see page 5) is a cable car trundling down Castro to the car barn that once occupied the present site of Walgreen's. Four large diesel buses are lined up at Castro and 24th, ready to ascend the hill.

Because people are milling in the street, Roddick surmises that the photo could have been taken the day bus service was inaugurated on the 24-Divisadero line. But what really strikes him is the parking arrangement: On both sides of Castro, cars are parked diagonally to the curb.

"Essentially, the view in the photo is the one from my office window," he says. "It occurred to me that reinstating diagonal parking might alleviate some of the congestion on Castro Street."

To test his theory, Roddick walked up and down Castro and counted 150 currently available parking spaces between 24th and Clipper streets. (Although the photo shows slanted parking only from Castro to Jersey Street, it made sense to



Neighborhood attorney Robert Roddick wonders why we can't switch from parallel to angled parking on Castro Street—especially since the street was already widened for that purpose in the 1930s.

Photo by Charles Kennard

Roddick to extend the diagonal parking two more blocks to Clipper.)

Figuring that each space would be about 10 feet wide, he determined that the neighborhood could add 75 to 100 new parking spaces if we switched from parallel to angled parking on those three blocks of Castro. (The width the city uses for diagonal parking is actually smaller—8½ feet per space. The standard length is 17 to 18 feet.)

Since he started researching the topic, Roddick has learned that "in the 1930s, the federal government under a WPA [Works Project Administration] program widened Castro Street by five feet on each side to make room for diagonal parking." However, he still doesn't know why or when the city returned to parallel parking.

In any case, city traffic engineer Mark Rand told him the best way to change it back was to submit a request to the Department of Traffic and Parking, as well as to the Board of Supervisors.

So in July, Roddick began circulating

a petition among his fellow residents and merchants. The petition asks that both sides of Castro Street between 24th and Clipper streets be converted to diagonal parking.

By mid-August, Roddick had collected more than 200 signatures. He expects to continue gathering names until he has 2,000 or so to take down to City Hall.

He says most people he has spoken with support the proposal. Nevertheless, Rand warned him that Muni might voice some safety concerns about parked cars backing into oncoming traffic.

One merchant told Roddick he opposed the change because his customers now double-parked on Castro, and obviously diagonal parking would hinder that. (The merchant wished to remain anonymous.)

"But in addition to augmenting the number of parking spaces, the plan could also increase revenue for the city," argues Roddick. "Since there would be supple-

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It may be a long shot, but Jason Yip would like to start an evening recreation program on the blacktop at James Lick School in honor of his father, Jim Yip, who died last spring.

Photo by Beverly Tharp

Suspect in Wrench Attack Still at Large

By Steve Steinberg

Police still have no solid leads in the brutal April 22 wrench attack on a Noe Valley merchant.

The unprovoked assault on the owner of Echo, a home and garden shop at 3775 24th St. (near Church), shocked the neighborhood and sent police searching for a neatly groomed white male suspect in his 30s, with a Vandyke beard and mustache.

Dressed in a brown jacket, jeans, tennis shoes, and a floral patterned scarf, the man entered the store in the early afternoon and abruptly started beating the merchant on the head with a large wrench.

San Francisco Police Inspector Joe Peralde last month reported no new information on the case—this despite the fact that police had flooded the area with two composite sketches of the assailant.

"We had a second composite drawing made and distributed in mid-July after the victim expressed some doubts about the accuracy of the first sketch," Peralde said. "But we have had no feedback since then."

Initially, he said, police received numerous reports of sightings of the suspect in the neighborhood, including one at Rabat, the apparel store at 24th and Noe.

According to Peralde, Rabat employees called police to report that a man matching the description of the suspect was in their store. But the person left before police arrived.

Police had also hoped to jar someone's memory by presenting the case on KGO-TV's *Crime Stoppers*, a show that recreates unsolved cases and offers a reward.

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Bright Idea For Night Basketball at James Lick

By Doug Konecky

Though Jason Yip lives in a quiet, well-kept corner of the Richmond District just a block up from Seal Cliff, he has worked in Noe Valley since he was 9 years old.

Now 27, Yip began helping out his parents in 1978 at their dry-cleaning business, Sea Breeze Cleaners on 24th near Castro. He continued to wash, dry, and fold at Sea Breeze when it moved in 1984, to its present location on Castro between Jersey and 25th streets.

"It's tough work," Yip says. "You never stop. It's like working on an assembly line."

Jason Yip's whole family has worked at the shop: two brothers, cousins, his mom Lisa, and until recently his father Jim, who passed away four months ago. (See June 1996 Voice.) Now Jason has an

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Darwin's Theory of 24th Street

Editor:

The article in your July issue ["24th Street Overflowing with Coffee"] about the action by community groups to limit coffee and specialty food stores on 24th Street was troubling for a variety of reasons.

First, it is virtually impossible to legislate commercial/retail diversity. A moratorium on these establishments will certainly halt their spread. However, a moratorium will do nothing to create more diversity, more stores, or more opportunity. It would be charming to have all kinds of different stores on 24th Street. But a wish by the Friends of Noe Valley to return to yesteryear will surely not make them appear.

Second, most legislation prohibiting specific stores is downright odious. After all, we're not talking X-rated movie theaters here — it's just coffee. Concerns about traffic, trash, noise, and odors can be addressed easily through existing or strengthened ordinances. Limiting the size of stores through zoning is a far less intrusive way to maintain a "small-neighborhood feeling" on 24th Street.

Third, many "neighborhood preservationists" talk as if hoards of "outsiders" are coming into Noe Valley and changing the nature of 24th Street. Naturally, Noe Valley, like all neighborhoods, is evolving. But almost everyone who shops and eats on 24th Street is a resident of Noe Valley. People don't drive here from Pacific Heights to buy coffee or a sandwich. We — all of your neighbors — shop here. And most of the store proprietors live and shop here, too. This is not neighbors against coffee shops or chain stores. This is neighbors against neighbors.

Fourth, the moratorium was not openly and widely discussed. The two groups that promoted it are a rather small segment of the neighborhood who nevertheless purport to speak for us all. Most of the neighborhood was not aware these issues were being raised, let alone that they were to be presented to the Board of Supervisors. Certainly (perhaps consciously?), the 75 members of the Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association were not informed.

In the future, if these groups wish to speak for Noe Valley, they should hold an open public meeting with ample prior notice. Only then can they legitimately represent the *entire* neighborhood.

In the end, the free market is Darwinianly effective. Stores that do not serve the neighborhood do not survive. And we only get — and deserve — the stores we frequent. I resent that a small group has resorted to legislation to impose their personal consumer tastes on the retail mix that "we the people" seem to want. The nature of the stores on 24th Street should be controlled not by a few individuals and supervisors, but by what the neighborhood as a whole is willing to support.

William Barrett
Twenty-second Street

Jumbo Decaf Martini with Steamed Harvey Milk

Editor:

I was amused by the article in the July 1996 issue of the *Noe Valley Voice* in which a number of neighborhood residents protested the proliferation of coffee shops in Noe Valley.

I am a 35-year resident of Eureka Valley, which is just over the hill from Noe Valley, and in these many years I have witnessed an enormous growth in the number of bars in our neighborhood. It is possible to walk for a mere two blocks on

LETTERS 32¢

18th Street and to pass seven or eight bars. I've got nothing against Demon Rum, and look forward to that late-afternoon hour when a dry martini comes my way, but I do think the number of bars in a small area of Eureka Valley has reached a point beyond saturation — you should pardon the expression.

I will gladly make a deal with the residents who live near the 24th Street shopping area: You take a half-dozen of our bars, and we'll take as many coffee shops as you want to send us. Please send them to Eureka Valley, and not to "the Castro," which some people seem to want to call our neighborhood. (Eureka Valley is named after the northernmost part of Twin Peaks, just as Noe Valley is named after the other peak.)

Here's another offer you may not be able to resist: How would you like a Harvey Milk memorial in Noe Valley? Our neighborhood now has a Harvey Milk Plaza, a Harvey Milk Library, a Harvey Milk Center for Recreational Arts, and we will soon have a Harvey Milk School.

Poor Cesar Chavez had to settle for a school and a street as memorials. Maybe we can name a coffee shop after Milk or Chavez, and put an end to the idiocy.

William Bernell
Collingwood Street

You Gotta Draw the Line

Editor:

Your July story about a City Guides walking tour of Noe Valley states that "according to [guide Sharon] Moore, Noe Valley stretches from 22nd to 26th streets, Hoffman to Church.... [But the *Noe Valley Voice* is] more inclusive. We vote for 21st to 30th, Grand View to Dolores."

I believe the *Voice* is correct. My family bought two houses on the 800 block of Elizabeth Street sometime in the late 1890s. I went to live with my grandparents about 1910. As I recall, my family considered Noe Valley to extend from 21st Street to 30th, and from Corbett Road to Dolores.

Edythe Nelligan
Oakland



Lillias, Yoga, and Nude

Editor:

Around 8 a.m. on July 31, a bright sunny morning, I was retrieving my garbage cans in front of my house on Dolores Street between Liberty and 21st streets, when I heard a loud Tarzan-like yell coming from across the street. To my surprise it emanated from two young men who were stark naked, standing on the second-story ledge of the Integral Yoga Institute at 770 Dolores St. The yell also drew the attention of house painters working on the house directly across Dolores Street.

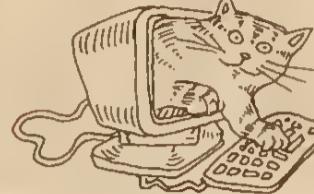
As soon as the nudes were confident they had been observed, they "mooned" us and dove back into the window. An hour later the pair emerged from the Yoga Institute, fully dressed this time, carrying suitcases, got into a car and headed south, probably to the San Francisco Airport.

My guess is that they were out-of-town overnight guests of the Yoga Institute, so overcome by the beauty of San Francisco on their last day that they chose this unique, uninhibited way to say farewell. If this had happened on Castro Street, no one would think twice. But at the respectable Integral Yoga Institute, on staid Dolores Street, it was really unusual!

Maybe they should make it a regular

initiation rite for all the yoga students. It would add a little spice to the neighborhood!

Walt Sherman
Dolores Street



Cats Sitting on the Information Highway

Editor:

Strange to see the *Voice* online. I've been reading the paper since I bought a home in the neighborhood in 1979. Always look forward to the April Fool's issue. Keep up the good work. I've found great housecleaners, cat sitters, plumbers, etc., in your classified ads.

Jim Ellingsen
Via the Internet

*Editor's Note: Thanks, Jim. For you other browsers on the Internet, our address is www.noevalleyvoice.com. Unfortunately, our web page is still "under construction," meaning we don't yet do a reprint of our stories. However, we are on the lookout for a school, business, or computer whiz who'd like to help us mastermind an electronic version. Meanwhile, the web site does have a short history of Noe Valley and the *Noe Valley Voice*, plus an easy way to send letters to the editor. (If you want to skip the Internet, e-mail jaxvoice@aol.com.)*



A Robbery Is a Robbery Is a Robbery

Editor:

Neighbors beware, there's a rose thief on the loose! I couldn't believe it. I opened my door this morning to a lovely windless day. At last, I could perform the rose treatment I'd been meaning to attend to for weeks — except for one problem: the lovely pot of lavender roses at the top of the stairs was gone, just like that.

What kind of person would steal a pot of roses (weighing about 35 pounds) from a stoop?

In my former New York mind (a place filled with images of running home from the subway with music stand poised in protective position, whistle in hand, anger shield on my face, money in the sock of my shoe, five extra dollars for the mugger), I would have obsessed about this happening, but after 15 years of California living (10 in Noe Valley), I've let go of paranoia and moved on.

Still, paradise is lost. The roses I so lovingly tended for four months are gone.

I grieve for the loss of my roses. They were a gift of love from my partner. She'd always say, "Don't forget to stop and smell the roses," and I did smell them; they were unique.

I grieve too for the loss of the Noe Valley I remember. Is Noe Valley becoming another New York?

Paranoid Perennial,
Randy Israel
Twenty-sixth Street

Root, Root, Root for the Sewer Pipes

Editor:

Your story on the city of San Francisco's claim that it lacks the money to fix the sewer pipes was very instructive

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E-mail: jaxvoice@aol.com
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CO-PUBLISHERS/EDITORS
Sally Smith, Jack Tipple

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS AND EDITORS
Jane Underwood, *Features Editor*
Jim Christie, *Last Page Editor*
Karol Barske, Larry Bresford, Loren J. Bialik,

Kathy Dalle-Molle, Jeff Doleman, Maure Farrington, Anne Gates, Florence Holub, Jeff Katiss, Tim Kelley, Doug Konecky, Michele Lynn, Denise Minor, Anita Newman Fate, Melanie Norden, Hugh Palmerston, Roger Rubin, Steve Steinberg, Karen Topakian, Rhuma Veltfort, Debra Wolf, Bill Yard

CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS
Charles Kennard, *Photo Editor*
Ed Buryn, Pamela Gerard, Najib Joe Hakim, Leo Holub, Beverly Tharp, Tom Wachs

CONTRIBUTING DESIGNERS
Suzanne Scott, *Director, Ad Production*
Karol Barske, Melinda Breitmeyer, Anne Gates, Scott Paterson, Beverly Tharp

ILLUSTRATIONS
Karol Barske
ADVERTISING SALES
Steve Steinberg, *Advertising Manager*
Additional Ad Sales: Jane Underwood

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[("Sinkhole Repairs Mired in Red (and Yellow) Tape," *Voice* June 1996]. This is the same city that is now building two stadiums with taxpayer money and credits.

I suggest that when people complain to the city, they remind the city that we need sewer pipes, not sports stadiums. I also suggest that these same people never again vote for sports stadiums nor for the people who promote them. These stadiums are nothing but scams, and always represent a theft of city services.

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A New Slant on An Old Parking Idea for Castro

Continued from Page 1

mentary parking spaces on Castro between 24th and Jersey, the city could add additional parking meters." Roddick quickly points out, though, that he is not in favor of adding meters to the rest of Castro past Jersey, which is residential.

He also notes that his plan is only a first step in solving traffic problems on Castro Street. "There should be a double yellow line down the center of Castro, as well as white lines delineating traffic lanes.

"We need stop signs on Castro by Jersey so pedestrians can safely cross the street, and proper school signs by James Lick," Roddick continues. As he looks out his window at cars speeding by, he adds, "And there should be signs limiting the speed limit to 25 miles per hour."

To get his neighbors' approval, Roddick took his petition to the August meeting of the Friends of Noe Valley. He says the response was positive, although no actual vote was taken.

But Roddick is patient because he's a Noe Valley resident who's here for the long haul. He grew up on 21st Street. He and his wife, Nancy, have raised three children in Noe Valley and reside in the Hill Street house Nancy's family has lived in since 1911.

If you'd like to gather signatures or want more information, you can call Bob Roddick in his office at 641-8687. □



This c. 1941 photograph, hanging in Hopwell's on 24th Street, shows what Castro Street might look like if we returned to diagonal parking.

Photo courtesy of Robert Roddick

Castro—just the movie buffs popping in and out of Video Wave. He says Noe Valley After Dark is so quiet, his dad Jim used to worry about his wife's safety at night when they closed the shop.

So a couple of months ago, Yip teamed up with the new police captain at Mission Station, Croce "Al" Casciato (affectionately known as "Captain Al"), and together they drafted a plan.

Casciato and Yip want to have lights installed at James Lick Middle School, so that the large playground along Castro between 25th and Clipper streets can remain open until 10 p.m., five or six nights a week, year-round.

"If you light it up, people will come," Yip says. He feels the community would welcome a place where everyone could just show up, either by themselves or with their children, to hit a tennis ball against a wall, try out their roller blades, ride their bikes, or play basketball or volleyball (or even chess and checkers). Captain Al envisions that there would be adult soccer

and basketball leagues, whose fees would pay for the other programs.

Casciato sees another advantage: As soon as the area is lit, street crime will go down. People will notice the impact immediately, he believes. And once residents begin to use their neighborhood playground, they will be more inclined to think about sending their children to their neighborhood school.

"Look around you," adds Yip. "Noe Valley is a wonderful haven for adults—restaurants, nice views, places to eat. But where do the kids go? We've got to get them away from their video games."

Yip is slowly gathering support for his nighttime playground, which he would love to dedicate to the memory of his father. "I don't want to call it Jim Yip Park or anything," he says. "That wouldn't be fair. But I know my dad would be happy to see the playground full of people at night."

Supervisor Susan Leal, a customer at Sea Breeze, has promised to help Yip and

Casciato if they need it. Also, according to Yip, School Superintendent Bill Rojas has given his preliminary blessing. And a meeting was scheduled in late August with a representative from the Recreation and Park Department, to walk through the site and discuss options.

Yip has also collected more than 200 signatures on a petition he presented to Friends of Noe Valley at the group's July 11 meeting.

He and Captain Al hope the neighbors' response will be enthusiastic. But Yip would like advice from *Voice* readers as well.

"Please, if you think this is a good idea, or even if you don't, write me and tell me your ideas. I could use your support, but any ideas you might have would be very helpful to me," he says.

You can write to Jason Yip at 358 30th Ave., San Francisco, CA 94121.

"Really," Jason says, "if we can pull this off, it would be a showplace for the entire neighborhood, a galleria."

So what do you think? □

Hoop Dreams at James Lick

Continued from Page 1

idea he would like to dedicate to the memory of Jim Yip.

"I love basketball," Yip says. "I work hard all day long at the cleaners, but when I want to play ball after work, I have to go all the way across town to find a game." Not only that, but Yip often faces a deserted street. There's hardly a soul on

New Sketch of Wrench Wielder

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for information leading to the arrest and conviction of suspects.

According to Peralde, the Echo case was all set to run on *Crime Stoppers* in late June when KGO suddenly halted production of the program.

"We had thought the TV show would generate interest in the case, but unfortu-

nately it never happened," said Peralde. Peralde added that San Francisco police still had "absolutely no motive" for the attack. "We have had no other recent crimes with that vicious a beating," he said.

In the meantime, the victim, who did not wish her name divulged, said she had fully recovered from her injuries, which included head abrasions, a broken right arm, and a fractured finger on her left hand.

Despite the trauma of the crime, the store owner last month expanded her popular design and gift store to include a line of furniture, rugs, lighting, and draperies.

Although trying to sound upbeat, the merchant said she was still taking extra precautions to ensure her safety. "And I probably will continue to do so for the rest of my life."

Anyone with information about the attack should contact Inspector Joe Peralde at 553-9134 or call police at 553-0123. □



In July police distributed this revised composite sketch of the suspect in the April 22 assault of a 24th Street merchant.

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Art for Muni Ramps Gets Green Light

By Loren J. Bialik

Your votes have been tallied: Instead of a blank wall, a colorful mural designed by Guerrero Street artist Tirso Gonzalez will grace the sides of the disabled ramps to be installed along the J-Church line next year.

In early August, Muni announced that after three months of controversy, it had approved one of two designs by Gonzalez—the one depicting red and turquoise palm trees, animals, and human figures on a yellow background.

The 2-by-10 foot ceramic mural will be displayed on all four of the wheelchair-accessible ramps along the J-line, including the two "key stops" in Noe Valley, one at Church and 24th and another at Church and Day streets.

Readers will recall that Gonzalez's mural designs drew such a negative response at the May 9 joint meeting of the East & West of Castro Street Improvement Club and the Friends of Noe Valley that the residents' groups rejected them both. The groups told Muni they would



After letters of support poured in, Muni decided to go ahead with this mural designed by Tirso Gonzalez for the new handicapped ramps along the J-line. Photo by Beverly Tharp

prefer seeing empty gray steel and concrete to Gonzalez's bold, graphic art.

John Katz, project planner for the Muni Metro Key Stops Project, responded that if the two groups preferred a blank wall, Muni would abide by their wishes, assuming they represented the will of the residents of Noe Valley.

But at that time, most people in the neighborhood had yet to see or give their opinion of Gonzalez's art. After stories appeared in the June and July issues of the Voice, "Muni received a tremendous amount of letters supporting Tirso's art and very few against it," Katz said.

One resident wrote, "The terms used by the Friends are extremely culturally insensitive and speak to a limited view of who resides in Noe Valley. I am Latino and I live in Noe Valley and other people

of color live in Noe Valley, and I do not prefer a gray wall on our community ramp."

Another letter said, "I live at Church and 23rd Street. I am a property owner who has lived here for a very long time. I do not wish to look at gray concrete when the whimsy of this art is so charming."

Yet another, signed by three residents of Chattanooga Street, read, "We do not feel that it would be fair to other residents of Noe Valley and the Mission (most of whom do not belong to either of the clubs that opposed the design) to be denied the delight of looking at Gonzalez's design on the Muni ramps. Please take into consideration that other residents of the city might enjoy a bright, lively mural to look at while waiting for Muni."

A Noe Street resident wrote, "Sometimes I think the groups which purport to speak for all of Noe Valley would rather we erected barricades and crossing gates to isolate our little slice of heaven, instead of joining in the diversity and excitement that make San Francisco what it is."

Katz said that after reading dozens of letters like this, he was convinced the pendulum had swung the other way. "Therefore, I recommended that the art be approved."

He noted that public art works such as the Muni murals were funded by a city policy that earmarks two percent of any project cost for art. "Every capital project we do above ground needs an art component," Katz said.

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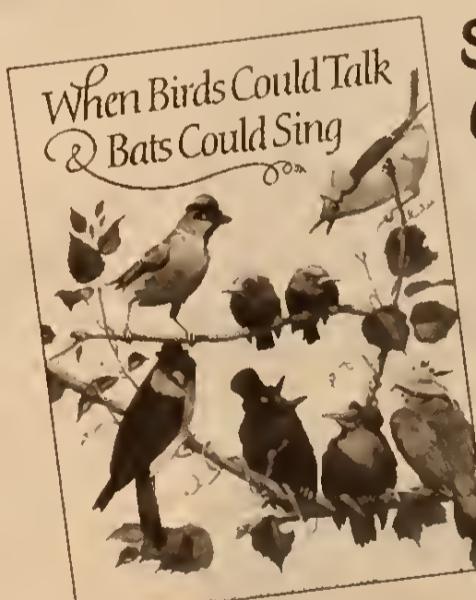
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POLICE B E A T

Robberies Take a Dip Over Summer

By Officer Lois Perillo

Noe Valley residents should be pleased to know there were only two robberies and one attempted robbery within my 24th Street (and neighboring) beat during June and July.

As reported in June's *Voice*, the first robbery occurred June 12 at 7:45 a.m. at 25th and Hoffman streets. It ended in the arrest of a 34-year-old man after several citizens and an off-duty police officer intervened. The suspect, charged with second-degree robbery, is in custody pending an Oct. 21 court date.

On the eastern edge of my beat, on Guerrero Street between 25th and 26th, a 26-year-old man thwarted a robbery attempt on June 29 at 6 p.m. The targeted man reported he was entering his parked car on Guerrero when a man in his 20s brandishing a Swiss Army knife tapped him on the shoulder and said, "Give me your wallet." Instead, the targeted man gave the suspect a swift kick in the face, then jumped in his car and drove away. Police responded and searched the area but did not locate the would-be mugger.

The only reported robbery of July occurred July 4 at a corner grocery at Castro and 23rd streets. The store owner was closing up about 10:30 p.m. when a 30-year-old man wearing a stocking over his head entered the store holding a "foot-long shotgun." The suspect stole a small amount of money, ordered the owner to the floor, and fled east on 23rd Street in a 1980s-model gray Toyota Corolla.

Second-Story Flasher Nabbed

Five burglaries occurred within my part of Noe Valley in June, and seven in July—an average tally for the area. There were six houses or flats broken into, two apartments, two stores, and two garages.

In the June 28 incident, a 36-year-old man exposed himself to a woman within her apartment building walkway at 1:30 p.m., then attempted to break into her neighbor's unit using a screwdriver to pry open a window frame. When the woman phoned police, I responded and caught the suspect as he exited the building. Last month he remained in custody, charged with indecent exposure and burglary, pending an Aug. 26 court date.

More Deputy Beat Guys

A chronic shoplifter who stole a \$300 espresso machine from Starbucks the morning of July 8 was captured with the help of several witnesses in a car.

The chase began at 10:35 a.m., when a Starbucks employee observed a customer handling an expensive espresso maker. When he was asked about it, the 37-year-old male suspect exited the store running with the machine. He was immediately noticed by two witnesses driving a Blazer, who then followed him as he got on and off several Muni buses on their way over the hill to the Castro. The Blazer inhabitants continued to tail the suspect as he turned around and came back to Noe Valley, hid the stolen machine on a Jersey Street house porch, and then returned once again to the Castro.

Police officers Michelle Kern and Martha Juarez caught up with the suspect at 18th and Castro. After the arrest, the Starbucks employee identified the man, who was then booked on theft.

The suspect, whom most Noe Valley merchants know from a Crime Alert bulletin as a repeat shoplifter "with bad teeth," was originally charged with petty theft with a prior conviction. However, the assistant district attorney handling the case has now added a felony burglary charge. The suspect remained in custody pending an Aug. 23 court date.

Meanwhile, hats off to the guys in the Blazer. Their tracking abilities have earned them deputy beat cop status.

Guitar Man Blues

Many of you are familiar with the 48-year-old man who has been playing his guitar in front of the Wells Fargo or Bank of America ATM. At least eight of you have stopped me to complain about his presence. Between May and July, I advised the guitarist on four separate occasions that he was breaking the law, which forbids loitering within 30 feet of an ATM. However, he kept "setting up" on the curb right across from the machines.

On July 23 I seized his guitar and issued another verbal warning. But the man persisted, reportedly telling another sidewalk person that he "makes more money" in front of the cash machines than anywhere else on the strip.

Finally, I arrested him in front of the Wells Fargo ATM about 12:30 p.m. on Aug. 2. Originally, I had intended to just give him a written citation, but when I told him what I planned to do, he yelled his disagreement and bolted into the street and into the path of a truck. I pulled him backward and he struggled.

His running constituted resisting arrest, which is a misdemeanor. So at this point, with the help of reserve officer Bob Kim, I handcuffed the suspect. I also used my police radio to order a transport unit to come take him to Mission Station.

By this time, a group of about 20 people had gathered, and the man resumed yelling his protests in an attempt to incite the group. Some people who did not understand the nature of the incident demanded to know if I was "arresting him for panhandling." One unidentified man repeatedly insisted I release the guitar man. Two other people, who apparently thought I was in trouble, called 911. I was unaware of their calls until I heard the police units coming "Code 3"—lights and sirens blazing. Obviously, there was more commotion than the situation warranted.

At the station, the guitar man was cited for the ATM infraction and two misdemeanors. I did not, however, charge him with resisting arrest. He was released from Mission Station on his promise to appear Sept. 4 in Municipal Court.

Where Are They Now?

The 33-year-old man who initially stole merchandise from the Just for Fun gift store on Sept. 4, 1995, and was charged with second-degree robbery due to the force he used to resist citizen arrest, pled guilty and was sentenced to 16 months in state prison July 8.

The 19-year-old man charged with two counts of second-degree robbery in a Sept. 23 case at Fair Oaks and 25th streets, pled guilty to both counts and was sentenced to two years in state prison on June 12.

The Clipper Street resident charged with six felonies and three misdemeanors stemming from a Jan. 6 incident where he repeatedly brandished a loaded .22 caliber rifle at his neighbors, pled guilty to one charge of assault with a deadly weapon on July 2 and was sentenced to 90 days in jail and a three-year probation.

Remember that May 1 strongarm robbery at Worth and 22nd streets, where the suspect was caught because of the quick response of several residents? The 30-year-old suspect pled guilty on July 10. He received a sentence of 60 days—30

days in jail and 30 in community service—plus three years probation.

Hit and Run of a Man in Blue

A 28-year-old woman who is a resident of Diamond Street was charged with two felonies—hit and run, and assault on a peace officer—after a July 4 incident near Pier 39.

According to police reports, the woman drove to the highly trafficked area to pick up a friend, but ignored police direction regarding stopping and parking her vehicle. When one officer began issuing her a ticket, she backed up over his foot and fled the scene. She was arrested about 20 minutes later on the 800 block of Diamond Street, but remained free on bond pending an Aug. 12 court date.

Double Drunk Driving

I arrested two men for driving under the influence of alcohol within Noe Valley. In the first incident, a 62-year-old man was driving a van south on Castro toward Jersey with a woman passenger when he drove into another car whose driver had just begun pulling out of a parking space. Luckily, there were witnesses to the accident and a paramedic nearby, who attended to the man who was hit.

In the second case, which occurred Saturday, July 6, at 8:19 p.m., I first encountered the 52-year-old man while I was dealing with another man who was also drunk inside his (illegally) parked car in the bus stop at 24th and Noe.

As I waited for a tow and transportation for the arrestee, the other man approached me and began speaking loudly. His speech was mumbled and slurred, and he appeared upset about my arresting the first man. I directed the mumbling man not to consume any more alcohol and saw him enter a nearby restaurant.

About five minutes later, I heard the sound of a fast-moving vehicle and saw the mumbling man driving a Ford Bronco west on 24th Street, then turn into the public parking lot. A police unit with officers Pam Wanek and Jim Escobar arrived and assisted in detaining the man.

I gave him a sobriety test; he failed. Although the California Vehicle Code compels those arrested for drunk driving to submit to a chemical test to determine their blood alcohol content, he refused to complete the test. In that case, his license is automatically seized and suspended. His car was towed and he was booked on drunk driving. He was taken to jail at 850 Bryant St., and released the next day with a citation to appear in court on Aug. 22.

Community Sound-Off

Here are some of the comments I've received while walking and riding my beat in Noe Valley.

- Christina reports mail box theft, and advises her neighbors not to deposit mail in drop boxes that appear to be full.

- Steve asks that I print a notice about the illegality of U-turns in a business district. So here goes: Section 22102 of the CVC reads: *No person in a business district shall make a U-turn, except at an intersection, or on a divided highway where an opening has been provided*

The fine for this violation is \$104, with a point charged against your license (and ultimately your car insurance).

While we're at it, making a left turn from Bell Market, which is posted with a Department of Parking and Traffic sign (yes, it is a city sign) is illegal too. Same fine applies. For you legal beagles, the left-turn law is 22101(d) C.V.C.

- Kathy sounds the alert about a theft from her car's locked trunk on Sanchez and 24th streets during broad daylight, at 4 p.m. on a Thursday.

- Shirley spreads the word that there's a man impersonating a United Parcel Service worker and trying to swindle Good Samaritans out of their money. Wearing a uniform, he arrives in the early evening claiming to be a neighbor who has been locked out of his house and is in need of transportation money to UPS offices in San Jose. Shirley realized she was scammed when a friend related a similar encounter.

Here's Lorraine

As many of you know, staffing the beat with an additional officer has been a long-time goal. Now I have some good news.

Please welcome back Officer Lorraine Lombardo, who has returned to Mission Station after a three-year stint at the San Francisco Investigations Bureau. Lorraine and I shared our 24th Street beat about four years ago. Her return is indeed a happy moment.

Since we'll both be on bicycles, wearing helmets and in the same uniform, you'll need a tip to tell us apart: She's the one wearing lipstick and nail polish! □

Community Police Officer Lois Perillo covers a beat that extends from 21st to Cesar Chavez Street and from Valencia to Grand View. You can reach her by calling Mission Station at 558-5400. To speak with a police officer covering the part of Noe Valley in the Ingleside Police District (south of Cesar Chavez), call 553-1603.

Community Police Officers Need Your Help

Dear Neighbor,

The Mission Police Station officers are interested in helping you make your neighborhood a safer place to live, work, and play.

Would you help us by completing this short survey and returning it to us.

1. Identify the most important crime problems in your neighborhood:

2. How can we serve you better?

3. What community activities, events, or programs are needed to reduce crime in your neighborhood?

4. Are you willing to become involved? Yes No

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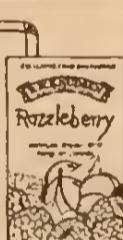
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Carl Smith Retires After 19 Years of Doing 'What Matters' at the Noe Valley Ministry

By Hugh Palmerston

The time has come to bid farewell to the Rev. Carl A. Smith. Smith will retire in September after 19 years as pastor of the Noe Valley Ministry Presbyterian Church, U.S.A.

When Smith came to Noe Valley in 1977, he was a man with a mission. The old Lebanon Presbyterian Church, former occupant of the dilapidated church building at 1021 Sanchez St., had been dissolved, and Smith had been chosen to build a new church and congregation from the ground floor up. Not impossible, but certainly not easy.

According to his wife, Suzanne, Carl's first comment upon seeing the old building was, "It looks as if it needs as much carpentry as it does ministry."

Fortunately, both Carl and Suzanne were up to the challenge. The couple had gotten married in 1958, when Carl was studying at the Pacific School of Religion and Suzanne was teaching at Berkeley High School. During his last year in the seminary, Carl became interested in the work of the Iona Community, a religious organization started in the '30s by George McLeod, a leader of the Church of Scotland.

Iona is a small island off the coast of Scotland, and has long been a religious center — for Druids in pre-Christian times, Celtic Christians in the sixth century, and, centuries later, for Benedictine monks. Eventually, however, the center fell into disrepair and was abandoned. Then McLeod came along.

"McLeod felt that while the church in its pomp and circumstance was doing all right, it had lost touch with the working people," says Smith.

The purpose of the Iona Community, he explains, was "to transform the church where people live and work, making it more relevant to working-class and urban people. The rebuilding of the abbey buildings on Iona served as a symbol of that."

To become a part of the community, Smith had to make a two-year commitment to work at Iona, and then at a parish someplace in Scotland under the tutelage of an Iona Community minister.

"It was a lark as much as anything," says Smith, "one of those happenstance things that come along. But, of course, it wasn't happenstance at all — those turned out to be the most formative years of my life."

"Almost any innovative parish or ecumenical project in northern England or Scotland at that time came from someone who was part of the Iona Community," he adds. "There was that interest in the revitalization of the church and its structures, its way of doing things. I was drawn by my interest in urban ministry, urban issues — the church in the inner city."

While at Iona, Smith developed a firm belief in the philosophy of "work as prayer" and in "incarnational theology," the belief that God is present in everything. Both beliefs served him well when it came time to confront his tasks at the Noe Valley Ministry.

But before he and Suzanne arrived in Noe Valley — setting up house on 23rd Street — Carl spent 14 years in the Palo Alto area, first with a ministry in East Palo Alto sponsored by three Presbyterian churches, then working in a variety of community organizations. He also served as interim pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Palo Alto.

The move to San Francisco, says

Smith, "was the opportunity to start a new ministry where the former congregation had died. I felt it was time for a change, so I applied for the job and was accepted."

Nina Youkelson, director of the Noe Valley Nursery School — one of many community groups now housed in the Ministry — recalls that in the late '60s, the Lebanon Church was unwilling to rent building space for classes, meetings, or any other purpose, despite the fact that the space went largely unused.

But a determined group of young mothers finally won over the church officers, and in January of 1969 the Noe Valley Co-op Nursery School moved into the building. "But," says Youkelson, "we had to promise them the sun, moon, and stars — anything to get that space. We couldn't hang things on the walls, we couldn't even put tape on the walls — they didn't want any vestige of our presence to be seen."

For seven years the nursery school remained the sole tenant, using the building for only a few hours a day and never in the evening. Meanwhile, the church became poorer and the building shabbier.

"My first memory of Carl," Youkelson says, "is of him standing on the corner of 24th and Sanchez handing out leaflets about the Noe Valley Ministry. I remember Carl's enormous energy — meeting people, talking to them, going to their houses. I am so grateful to Carl for doing what he did with that building, opening it up to all sorts of activities, making it a true center for this neighborhood and the Bay Area. Of course, we immediately started putting thumbtacks in the walls!"

Smith himself recalls, "The first three months I was here [in 1977], I spent a lot

of time just meeting with people. Generally speaking, the neighborhood felt that this building was a wonderful resource that should be used for the community. The nursery school had a whole constituency of people who'd had their children in this neighborhood — they were people who lived here, who had new businesses here, and who came out in force to let me know that the building should be kept. And there were many people in various movements and in the arts who wanted to use the building.

"Now for me, the most important thing I took from the Iona experience was the sense that God is alive and at work in the arts, in construction, and yes, even in the grunt work. What really matters is matter. Fortunately, the Noe Valley Ministry as a neighborhood center has been able to manifest that," he continues. "It's one of those happy coincidences where theology and financial reality joined together. It would not have been financially feasible for us to have dedicated that space to be used for only one purpose."

Says Elizabeth Rusk, a longtime member of Smith's congregation (and before that a member of the Lebanon Church), "With Carl's coming to Noe Valley, an old rundown building had a rebirth, and the arts of prayer, meditation, music, drama, tai chi, sculpture, painting, and caring for one another had a home."

The building at 1021 Sanchez is now host to more than 30 classes, concerts, and group meetings per month, and is currently finishing up a \$140,000 renovation of its roof and exterior.

But what gave Smith the most satis-

Continued on Page 12



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Pastor Carl Smith Retires

Continued from Page II

faction during his time at the Ministry "was seeing the evolution of a very loving and committed group of people—a large extended family, you might call it, in the neighborhood. A number of people have come through the doors of the Noe Valley Ministry and have experienced significant healing in their lives. We have sought to develop a balance between spiritual growth and social compassion and community-building."

He is also pleased "that the building itself has survived, that we managed to salvage it, and make significant steps toward its continued existence as a center for community life. And through it all, we have kept the lamp of God's love burning."

Smith may be retiring from the Ministry, but he has seen to it that his "house of community and prayer" will remain strong. Upon his departure, an interim pastor (to be appointed this month) will take over his duties until a permanent pastor is elected by the congregation sometime within the next year.

As for his own future, Smith plans to stay in Noe Valley and turn his energy to

personal endeavors, including the one-on-one "spiritual direction" counseling he has been doing for several years.

"My greatest, deepest life desire is to be with people in their spiritual unfolding," he says, "in their discovery and recovery of who they are."

He will also continue working in the field of relapse prevention, counseling people with substance abuse problems. "The danger of relapse is a matter of life and death," he says.

And he will go on teaching meditation and body prayer—"the use of the body in prayer, and also tai chi in prayer form." (If you are interested in these workshops, please call him at 206-1159.)

Obviously, he's still a man with a mission—or two, or three—and we wish him well. □

The Noe Valley Ministry will hold a finger-food potluck celebration in honor of Carl and Suzanne Smith at 5 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 15, at 1021 Sanchez St. The party is being organized by a new intergenerational group called Learning Together, and will include the raising of a totem pole telling the story of the Noe Valley Ministry down through the years. Also, the church will devote its worship service at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, Sept. 29, to a special tribute to Carl. For details or to help out, call 282-2317.

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Playwright Prefers Valley Over Vegas

By Jeff Doleman

Brighde Mullins lives in Noe Valley, but her thoughts often drift to a more arid, combustive place. A poet and a playwright, Mullins (her first name is pronounced BRIDGE-et) spent many of her formative years surrounded by the sand and neon of Las Vegas, and she admits to still being fascinated by "the Strip."

"Las Vegas is the landscape of my own mythology," says the 32-year-old Sanchez Street resident. "There is something in that town lingering from my childhood."

Her new play, *Topographical Eden*, is a coming-of-age story set in 1976, about two runaway teenagers who meet on the interstate and set out for Las Vegas. Once there, they encounter a former college professor turned cocktail waitress, and two retired Nevada test site workers. The year 1976, notes Mullins, "was significant for Las Vegas, because it was the year New Jersey legalized gambling."

Two staged readings of *Topographical Eden* will be given as part of the Bay Area Playwrights Festival this month. Next March the Magic Theatre will mount a full-scale production of the work.

The play is not autobiographical, but the characters and themes do stem from Mullins' real life. Born in 1964 on a military base in North Carolina, she moved all over the country as a child. Her father, an Irish ex-Marine, and her mother, an Italian schoolteacher, finally staked a claim in the city of dreams when Mullins, the third of seven children, was 10.

"My parents went to Las Vegas with a sense of naiveté," she says. "They were from the East Coast, and I think they were enticed by the warmth of the West. They liked the desert because there was no snow."

The dramatic shift in climate, however, did not satisfy Mullins. The scorching desert heat of Las Vegas left her spiritless and despondent. And to a young woman with artistic aspirations, the town seemed cheap and confining.

"What could I do in Las Vegas," she asks, "be a cigarette girl?"

While majoring in English at the University of Nevada, Mullins worked as a "shill"—a casino employee who plays the slot machines to attract more gamblers.

"Sure, it's exciting when you win," she says, "but you don't get to keep the money." This kind of exhilaration, followed by a tremendous letdown, epitomizes the Las Vegas lifestyle. Casinos are partly to



Playwright and poet Brighde Mullins evokes her childhood home of Las Vegas in her play *Topographical Eden*, to be performed this fall and next year at the Magic Theatre.

Photo by Beverly Tharp

blame, says Mullins, but she believes there's another, more insidious reason.

"There is a deep connection between the phenomenon of Las Vegas and nuclear testing," asserts the author. As one of her characters in *Topographical Eden* puts it, there's "a tumor under the land."

Drive a hundred miles north of Las Vegas on Highway 93, and you'll come to Alamo, the town where the most important branch of the Atomic Energy Commission was located during the Cold War. A picture of a mushroom cloud from a nuclear explosion once graced the Clark County Seal, and most local residents, many of whom worked for the AEC, remain proud of their nuclear heritage.

Mullins allows a trace of bitterness to thread through her otherwise genial personality when she discusses the A-bomb experiments. She was treated for a benign tumor while still in her 20s, and isn't ruling out radiation as the culprit.

Most people in Las Vegas, she remarks, take for granted "the expendability of the common person." And this disturbs her. "The Mojave is a delicate ecosystem. I think if it were an animal, it would be a laboratory rat."

While the *Grand Guignol* of science experiments was taking place in the Nevada desert, however, Mullins was pursuing a different kind of drama.

"I didn't grow up going to the theater, but I grew up reading about it," she says. Her research quickly evolved into writing her own plays. "The world occurs to me

through the ear. I hear people's voices, and they translate to the stage."

After earning her B.A., Mullins submitted her first play, *The Last Ugly Man in America*, to Yale University's Drama School, and was accepted into the program. Shortly after graduating, she took off for the Big Apple ("I always wanted to get to New York"), where she stayed for five years. During this time she managed the poetry program at Dia Center for the Arts, a job she holds to this day, commuting to New York once a month.

In 1994, Mullins moved to San Francisco in order to accept a teaching position in the Creative Writing Department at San Francisco State University. And when she found Noe Valley, she says, she

also found her "Mecca."

"Noe Valley is person-sized. This is a gentle neighborhood," Mullins observes. "In Las Vegas, the individual gets lost. There is no sense of community. You can't walk out your front door and get a cup of coffee."

A self-proclaimed "coffee hound," she confesses that her decision to live in this neighborhood was based partly on the proximity of cafes.

In fact, much of *Topographical Eden* was written at Martha's coffeehouse on Church Street, and *Fire Eater*, her play about the Irish potato famine, was written almost entirely at Java 'n' Mor.

"I should pay them rent," says Mullins, who admits that writing in a New York cafe would be dicier: "You can do it, but you have to put up with a certain degree of hostility."

Mullins' cafe-writing regimen seems to be working right down to the last drop. She already has 10 plays to her credit, and an eleventh is sitting on the front burner.

Although a play "doesn't have the interpretive capacity that a novel or a film has," she says, theater is more rewarding because of the palpable response it elicits.

A theater audience, Mullins notes, "is small but fierce." It's a playwright's job to leave room for the imagination. "You just have these dots, and the audience must connect them." □

The Bay Area Playwrights Festival will present staged readings of Topographical Eden at Fort Mason's Magic Theatre on Wednesday, Sept. 11, and Saturday, Sept. 21. Both readings will begin at 8:30 p.m. An opening reception will follow the Sept. 11 performance. For more information, call 441-8822.



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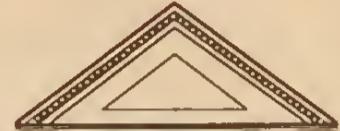
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SHORT TAKES

Friends Fill Up September

When they're not busy keeping the neighborhood safe from urban blight, Friends of Noe Valley members take time to schmooze, elect new officers, and raise money for good causes.

On Saturday, Sept. 21, the neighborhood group will gather for their annual picnic and election of officers. The potluck politicking takes place on the deck of the Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St., from noon to 4 p.m.

To find out more about the chat 'n' chew, call Bill Kuhns at 826-2304 or Miriam Blaustein at 648-0992.

On another front, the Friends' board of directors voted this summer to establish a program of grants for deserving Noe Valley individuals and organizations. A committee is now working to define policies and criteria for applicants.

If you'd like to get involved, it's easy to hop on the bandwagon. Membership dues run \$15 per household (\$10 for limited income) per calendar year. Send your check to Friends of Noe Valley, 327 Jersey St., San Francisco, CA 94114. For more information, call Friends co-chair Cecile Lozano at 695-9502.

Or just make a bowl of potato salad and head for the library on Sept. 21.

A Cornucopia of Fall Music

September has shaped up as a good month for music in the 'hood. The Noe Valley Chamber Music Series begins its 1996-97 season with a vocal recital featuring soprano Rachel Lopez, mezzo soprano Emily Stern, and accompanist Leslie Williams, performing works by Mahler, Milhaud, Bernstein, Rossini, Meyerbeer, and Strauss.

The recital takes place on Sunday, Sept. 8, at 2 p.m. at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. As a special treat, the Ministry will hold an open house following the performance (4:30-ish), so concert-goers can check out the building's recent renovations.

Nearby in the Mission, the Community Music Center (CMC) at 544 Capp St. celebrates its 75th year with several performances and a new round of classes. Students 4 and up may enroll in private lessons (29 instruments, including voice), group classes in music theory, coaching in Latin, Eastern, and Chinese music, and pre-instrumental music for children. They may also join performing ensembles in choral, jazz, orchestral, or chamber music.

On Friday, Sept. 6, from 6 to 7 p.m., the center will host a free orientation for new students, open to the public. New student registration for the fall 1996 quarter will take place Sept. 12 and 13, from 3 to 7 p.m., and Sept. 14, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. For information, call 647-6015.

At registration's end on Sept. 14, six CMC vocalists will present "Anglin's Amazons Plus One," an evening of music by classical and modern composers, starting at 8 p.m. Admission is \$5, although no one will be turned away for lack of funds. The next afternoon at 3 p.m., cellist Anne Lerner-Wright and pianist Renée J. Witon perform Bach's Sonata for Viola da Gamba, Beethoven's Sonata No. 5, opus 102, and Shostakovich's Sonata for Cello and Piano. Admission is \$10; \$5 for seniors and children.

Meanwhile back at the Ministry, comedians-musicians Merle "Ian Shoales" Kessler and J. "Righteous Raoul" Brody



The Growing Stage, a new children's theater workshop at the Marsh on Valencia Street, invites youngsters to come to a Sept. 8 theater festival that will include face painting, storytelling, and food, glorious food! It's free and starts at 2 p.m.

Photo by Tom Linehan

will reunite on Sept. 21, 8 p.m., for a rousing "Evening of Song," one of the more popular traditions at the Noe Valley Music Series. This year's theme is "Again."

Described by Brody as "*Prairie Home Companion* without the smarmy monologues," the evening will feature songs by more than a dozen artists—some professional singers, some not—many of them linked to local acts from the '70s and '80s, such as Duck's Breath Mystery Theater, Rick and Ruby, and the Baltimores (singer Dave Terry is in the lineup).

In addition to Kessler and Brody, who'll be cranking up the piano, tunesmiths will include Barbara Scott of *True Fiction* magazine, Mike Dingle of Survival Research Lab, Jack Boulware of the *S.F. Weekly's Slapshots*, and Kim Teevan from the Ethel Merman Memorial Choir.

"An Evening of Song: Again" is not an open mike event, says Brody. But the relationship between performers and audience "is more of a semi-permeable membrane," so you can expect lots of jamming and improvisation.

Tickets are \$9 in advance and \$10 at the door. You can purchase them at Streetlight Records, 3979 24th St. (282-3550), or mail checks to SF Live Arts, P.O. Box 862, Fairfax, CA 94978.

Bell Still Delivering

When Bell Market announced last June that its delivery service for seniors was being discontinued for lack of use, a few people requested that the supermarket make at least one last attempt to generate new interest before stopping the service.

In response, Bell is now offering the service on Tuesdays instead of Wednesdays, since Tuesday is also the day the store gives seniors an extra grocery discount. Delivery times (10:30 a.m. and noon) and charges (\$3 for those who order at least \$25 worth of groceries) will remain the same.

Deliveries are made by We Work for You, Inc., a San Francisco-based provider of personal and business services. Work! will test out the new Tuesday schedule until at least Nov. 1, 1996. If deliveries have picked up by then, they'll keep the service going.

For information or to request a delivery, call Larry Alperstein at 255-2325.

'Write a Letter, Save a Life'

Eric Hellweg, a member of Amnesty International's Group 80, wants to announce that the San Francisco chapter will be holding a Write-A-Thon on behalf of "prisoners of conscience from around the globe" on Saturday, Sept. 21, from noon to 3 p.m. at the Noe Valley Ministry. The theme of the afternoon work session

is "Write a Letter, Save a Life."

The public is welcome to attend, and participants will receive a free slice of pizza for every letter they write.

Amnesty International is an independent worldwide movement working for fair and prompt trials for political prisoners, and an end to torture and executions. It is funded by donations from its members and supporters.

The Noe Valley Ministry is located at 1021 Sanchez St. (near 23rd Street). If you have any questions, give Hellweg a call at 824-4826.

Demos Host Supe Candidates

Over the summer, members of the Noe Valley Democratic Club have been busy shouting at the TV, arranging a candidates forum with four other clubs, and planning their endorsements for the November election. But they aren't through yet.

On Wednesday, Sept. 11, at 8 p.m., the group will hold a general membership meeting and supervisor candidates' night at the Noe Valley Ministry on Sanchez.

Says club president Dave Monks, "The candidates who got a certain percentage of our PAC Committee endorsements at our August forum will be invited to attend the September meeting in Noe Valley. Probably six or seven of the people who are running will come, including Barbara Kaufman, Susan Leal, and Leslie Katz."

After speeches from the candidates, the club will cast ballots on all the candidates (and initiatives) in the election, which takes place Nov. 5.

"Everyone is invited, whether or not they are a club member," Monks points out. If you'd like membership information, though, give him a call at 821-4087.

Kids Act Out

Many new parents may recall a common parental admonition from childhood: "Go to your room, young man/lady, and don't come back until you learn how to act!" But now that they have kids of their own, today's apprentice moms and dads dread the prospect of Sounding Like Our Parents.

Here's one solution: send your progeny not to their rooms, but to the Growing Stage, a children's theater in progress at the Marsh on Valencia Street. That way the young'uns will learn how to act!

To give kids a taste of drama, the Growing Stage will present a Fall Theater Festival for children on Sunday, Sept. 8, at 2 p.m. The free event features crafts, facepainting, storytelling, and munchies.

The Growing Stage will also host a six-week workshop for budding thespians, culminating in a performance. The workshop begins Sept. 14, is designed for kids

5 to 9, and costs \$57 to \$66 (sliding scale).

For information about either the festival or the workshop, call Gina Scher, associate director, at 821-0353 or 826-5750. The Marsh is located at 1062 Valencia St.

Osteoporosis Study

A decrease in bone density can indicate the presence of osteoporosis, a disease that causes bones to become thin, fragile, and vulnerable to fractures. Over 200 million women worldwide suffer from the disease, and about 250,000 Americans fracture a hip each year as a result of the condition.

In its continuing efforts to find a treatment for this disease, the U.C. San Francisco Osteoporosis Research Program is seeking women, ages 60 to 85, for a study on bone density. Participants must have broken a hip within the last two years, and cannot currently be taking estrogen or Fosamax, a bone-loss inhibitor. The procedure is non-invasive, takes about two hours, and causes minimal discomfort.

The project is ongoing through December 1996. Tests are performed at 350 Parnassus Ave., Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Each participant will be given a free bone density measurement test and paid \$75.

For information call 476-8447.

Recycle for the Parks

If you live in Noe Valley, Glen Park, Sunnyside, Miraloma Park, Diamond Heights, Twin Peaks, West Portal, Dolores Heights, Eureka Valley, or the Haight, you can help your local park by recycling 10 percent more during September, October, and November.

If recycling goes up by 10 percent, the San Francisco Recycling Program will donate \$7,500 to the Recreation and Parks Department for parks in these neighborhoods.

The money will be used for ongoing maintenance, equipment, benches, plants, and other park improvements.

For more information, call 554-6193.

You can also help reduce waste by remembering to recycle your old phone directories. More than 1.2 million phone books will be delivered in San Francisco during September, making 1.2 million old phone books obsolete. But the old books can enjoy a new life as a useful product (a new phone book, a recycled cereal box, or building insulation) if residents participate in the city's eighth annual phone book recycling campaign.

If you have curbside recycling service, put the books in a paper bag with your other paper recyclables. If you live in an apartment building with central recycling bins, put them in the gray recycling bin for paper. If you live in an apartment building without recycling, you can take your books to a recycling center. To find the one nearest you, call 554-6193.

Civic Duty Calls

Amid the bombast of most election campaigns, those citizens who oversee the basic fabric of democracy—our poll workers—often go unheralded. But poll workers perform a crucial function. And the San Francisco Director of Elections is looking for city residents to work the polls on Election Day, Tuesday, Nov. 5.

Poll workers are expected to staff the garages, schools, and other polling places at each city precinct from 6:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. The Department of Elections will attempt to place workers in precincts near their homes, although assignments are on a first-come basis.

Continued Next Page

Continued from Previous Page

There are two types of poll workers: clerks and inspectors. Inspectors must have transportation and leadership capabilities. They also can expect to supervise three clerks, and will be responsible for delivering completed ballots to the Department of Elections after the polls close.

Compensation is \$62 for clerks and \$79 for inspectors.

All poll workers must be U.S. citizens, registered voters, and at least 18 years of age at the time of the election.

First-time poll workers will attend an orientation class to learn their duties. Applications and registration forms are available at the Department of Elections, 633 Folsom St., Room 107 (between Second and Third streets).

For more information, call 554-4395.

To Read or Not to Read

Which is more troubling—that many adults are unable to read *anything* (illiteracy) or that all readers are unable to read *something* (censorship)?

No matter what the answer, the San Francisco Public Library is working to thwart both illiteracy and censorship. The library's adult literacy program, Project Read, will hold a Move-a-thon on Saturday, Sept. 7, at Justin Herman Plaza on the Embarcadero, to raise money for Bay Area literacy efforts. Participants (hopefully encouraged by lots of sponsors) will walk through North Beach, or if they prefer to be armchair travelers, they'll simply read and play word games.

Call 557-4388 if you'd like to sign on.

Meanwhile, during Banned Books Week, the Friends of the San Francisco Public Library will hold its annual "Biggest in the West" book sale at Fort Mason Center, Sept. 12-15. The sale features many books, such as *Canterbury Tales* or *Catcher in the Rye*, deemed by past censors to be too radical, sexual, or provocative for public consumption.

On Thursday, Sept. 15, there's a \$15 entrance fee, which will be waived for members of the Friends (including those who join that day). Hours are 4 to 8 p.m., with a silent auction of rare and unusual books from 4 to 6 p.m. On the remaining three days, admission is free, and the hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. All books will be reduced to half-price on Sunday.

The entrance to Fort Mason is at the foot of Buchanan Street opposite the Marina Safeway. For details, call 557-4257.

ER Brought Up to Speed

Once upon a time, a less-than-life-threatening visit to the Emergency Room at San Francisco General Hospital resembled an episode from the *Twilight Zone*—time slowed to a crawl, ominous restrooms beckoned, and forgotten patients fell into comas.

But times have changed. Responding to community complaints that a visit to S.F. General's "ER" meant hours of wait-



Another Winning Season: The 9- and 10-year-old "Zephyrs" were among four hot baseball teams playing at Upper Noe Rec Center this summer, sponsored by Zephyr Real Estate and Sapunar Realty. Pictured left to right (front row) are Aaron Rowland, Jack Felton, Alex Bardack, Jeremy Black, and Enrique Reyes; (middle row) David Levine, Dan Nemiroff, Jacob Adler, Matt Stewart, and Casey McLennan; and (back row) team coach Kevin Black, Fred Watson, Ryan Perez, Eric Ivan, Gabe Hass, and assistant team coach Barry Nemiroff.

ing, the hospital recently inaugurated a "Fast Track" program, which speeds patients through the registration and evaluation process.

Clients can now spend about an hour from the time they walk in the door until they see a doctor. First, a triage nurse determines the severity of their problem. If it is not too serious, the patient is sent directly to the Fast Track registration window and then to a treatment room.

After examination by a nurse practitioner or physician, the patient is discharged without having to visit any other office. Interpreters in 10 languages are also available.

The hospital, long recognized for the superior quality of its trauma center, has also remodeled the ER's waiting room, registration area, and bathrooms.

San Francisco General Hospital is located at 1001 Potrero Ave., between 22nd and 23rd streets. Access to the ER is from 23rd Street. The hospital serves all citizens in need, with or without insurance.

How Selfish Are You?

Some people are selfish. They grab the last seat on the bus, ignoring the mom with two toddlers. They pour themselves the last cup of coffee and leave the empty pot on the burner.

Other people are even *more* selfish. They spend a couple of hours a week doing something that makes them feel great for the rest of the week. And because they feel so great, they're often impervious to the petty annoyances that plague the rest of us.

These are the folks who volunteer. For example, they might help isolated, frail, or disabled seniors buy groceries or visit their doctors. They drive their elderly passengers to and from their destination, and maybe carry their grocery bags for them. During the outing, their perspective on

life totally improves and their self-esteem goes through the roof. (*Puhleeeze!*)

But you've got more important things to do with your time, like spending money or watching television. So Debbi Goodman, the coordinator of the volunteer program at Jewish Family and Children's Services, 561-1232, doesn't have to worry about *you* offering to chauffeur a needy senior citizen—does she?

Live Oak Reunion

Live Oak School, located at 117 Diamond St. (near 18th), is celebrating its 25th anniversary with a barbecue picnic for alumni and their parents on Saturday, Sept. 28, from 3 to 7 p.m. The event will include a photo display, games, memory book signing, souvenirs, and a special presentation.

Founded in 1971 by six families, with fewer than 30 students, Live Oak has evolved into a paragon of San Francisco elementary education. The school, which moved in 1982 from Ocean Avenue to its current location in the Castro, now instructs over 170 children in kindergarten through eighth grade.

Live Oak emphasizes child-centered and active learning, a curriculum tailored to individual learning styles, and a commitment to parent participation.

For more information about the school, call 861-8840.

Magical Mural Tours

No thicker than a thumbnail, murals ask only that we look at them, which just got a little easier to do, thanks to the folks at Precita Eyes Mural Arts Center.

On every third Sunday of the month, Precita Eyes leads a citywide mural tour from within the flying Mexican Bus, also known as "El Volado." El Volado stops

twice to pick up eager mural gazers—first at the Museum of Modern Art, 151 Third St., at 12:30 p.m., and again at Precita Eyes Mural Arts Center, 348 Precita (near Folsom), at 1 p.m.

The bus then winds through San Francisco's streets, taking passengers to see over 75 fantastic murals. The three-hour excursion, led by an experienced muralist, visits such standouts as the 1940s murals at Rincon Annex, "Frisco's Wide Side" in SOMA, "Maestrapeace" on the Women's Building, and the murals of Balmy Alley in the Mission.

The cost of the tour is \$30, which includes refreshments.

Those wanting a little exercise can join Precita Eyes' monthly eight-block mural walk, which takes place on the last Saturday of the month, and visits more than 70 of the Mission District's 200 murals.

Participants board El Volado in front of the Museum of Modern Art at 9:30 a.m. for a ride to the Precita Eyes Mural Center. A slide presentation on the history of mural creation precedes the tour, which costs \$15 and includes refreshments.

If you want to bypass the bus ride and slide show, Precita Eyes offers the same two-hour mural walk every Saturday beginning at 1:30 p.m. The cost is \$4, and the tour begins at 348 Precita Ave.

Reservations are required for either bus tour. To secure a space, call 285-2287.

Many Ways to Be Green

Despite two successive winters of ample rain, you still conserve water. You recycle your cans and bottles and most of your papers. Maybe you've even joined a carpool or assembled a compost bin in the back yard. Still, you'd like to do more to protect and restore the environment.

Well, the Green City Volunteer Network has just the data base for you. The organization refers prospective volunteers to any of 425 "ecological and urban sustainability groups" in the Bay Area.

"We take the time to help the callers determine their interests," says coordinator Maggie Weadick, "and we emphasize all the positive aspects of volunteering."

Armed with these leads, callers may find themselves planting trees on city streets, restoring habitats at Point Reyes, or caring for orphaned marine animals.

Green City's Education + Action Program links local teachers and environmental groups. The program recently worked on a project with sixth-graders at James Lick Middle School, and also with first-graders at Alvarado School, stenciling those cautionary messages near Noe Valley storm drains warning us that whatever we dump ends up in the Bay.

Green City also publishes a bimonthly calendar stuffed with ecology news and activities. To become a member or to find out which environmental group matches your time and talents, call Green City at 285-6556.

This month's Short Takes were written by Bill Yard, Jane Underwood, and Sally Smith.

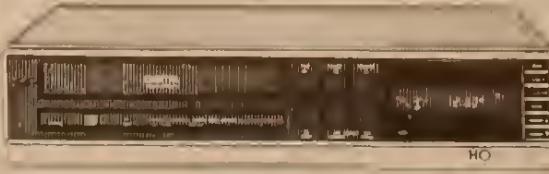
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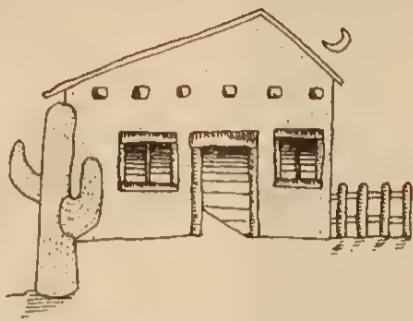
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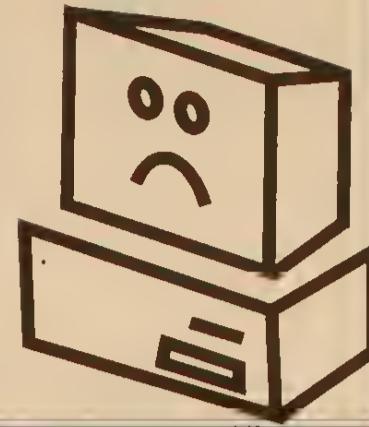
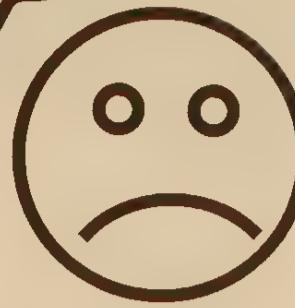
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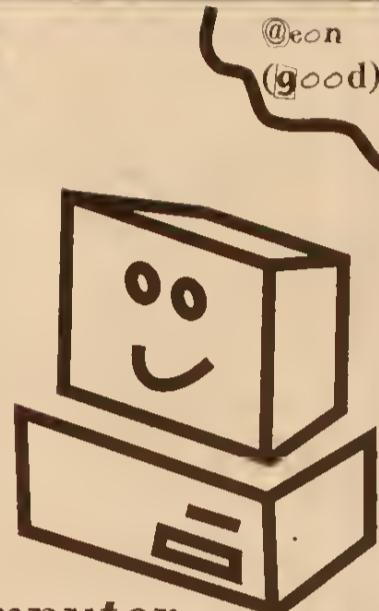
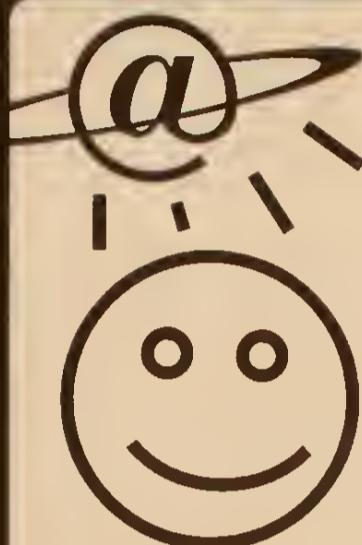
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STORE TREK



This month's Storetrek features a restaurant that offers a crepe for every taste bud, a whimsical gift shop with a Mexican flair, and a women's jewelry and clothing store that has shown real staying power in nearby Eureka Valley.



Maher Fakhouri displays an assortment of crepe entrees at Savor, 24th Street's newest restaurant. Photos by Charles Kennard

Savor Restaurant 3913 24th St. (near Sanchez) 282-0344

Savor (pronounced Sa-VOR), the Noe Valley eatery that took over the space formerly occupied by the old Courtyard Cafe, opened its 24th Street doors on Aug. 12, just a couple of days after the massive West Coast power outage.

"I wasn't sure we'd be ready," says owner Maher Fakhouri, who runs the 93-seat restaurant, along with his brothers and partners Mazen and Majed, "but what a great turnout we had as soon as the doors opened!"

Savor offers breakfast, lunch, and dinner any time of day. Chef Juan Ortega Hussong specializes in California cuisine with a Mediterranean flavor—and crepes are his forte.

Ten crepe entrees and 10 dessert crepes fill the menu. Try the "Milano," filled with eggplant, roasted garlic, artichoke hearts, roasted peppers, and provolone cheese. Or if you're craving something sweeter, check out the "Jamaican," made with bananas, brown sugar, and cinnamon.

Hussong also turns out omelettes, home fries, frittatas, salads, sandwiches, and homemade breads and jams. House specialties include the "New Orleans"—crab cakes over homemade biscuits, topped with a poached egg, cheese, and hollandaise sauce—as well as corned beef and smoked salmon dishes. There's also a special children's menu. And no dish is more than \$8.

"We have the casual diner in mind," says Fakhouri, noting that at least three or four babies are happily hanging out on the premises at any one time. "You can stop into Savor in shorts or a suit and feel comfortable."

The decor features rustic wood tables, warm earth-tone colors, and a fireplace. The back of the restaurant has been expanded to include the space next door (formerly a women's clothing shop), and courtyard seating is still available.

"We've had our eye on Noe Valley for quite a while," says Fakhouri, who also runs a restaurant in the Sunset District called the Crepe Vine. "The neighborhood feeling here has been nicely preserved."

Savor is open from 7:30 a.m. to 11 p.m., Monday through Saturday, and 7:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Sunday.

—Melanie Norden

Artemisia

746 Diamond St. (near 24th)

643-0980

"I just love to travel," says Bibiana Van Landeghem, co-owner along with her husband, Juan Teran, of Artemisia, an art gallery and gift shop filled with an array of treasures acquired mostly on Van Landeghem's monthly jaunts to Mexico.

Artemisia has occupied its cozy quarters at 24th and Diamond—formerly home to the San Francisco Mystery Bookstore—since the end of June.

"We'd never thought about getting into retail," confesses Van Landeghem, who also works as a massage therapist, "but we've lived upstairs for the past three years, and the landlord offered us the store at a good price."

Artemisia's collection of jewelry, ceramics, and artwork reflect a cultural map of Mexico's regions, with intricately hand carved and painted wooden chests, boxes, and trays from the state of Guerrero, and black pottery from Oaxaca. Traditional folk art includes framed mirrors, painted pottery, and brightly hued tin ornaments.

Paintings, sculpture, and paper art objects, by local as well as Mexican artists, complete the picture.

Van Landeghem also carries Indonesian hand-carved furniture—tables, chairs, bookcases, chests, hutches, and garden furniture—available at warehouse prices.

"I want to keep it a fun store," she adds. "And since I import much of my stock directly—we have a house in Mexico, so I can go there myself—I'm able to keep prices reasonable."

Artemisia is open Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Sunday from noon to 5 p.m. Van Landeghem is also considering opening during weekdays.

—Melanie Norden



Juan Teran and Bibiana Van Landeghem offer an array of Latin American arts and crafts at Artemisia on Diamond Street.



Jerusalem Shoppe 313 Noe St. (near Market) 864-4593

For those of you who might be wondering what happened to the Jerusalem Shoppe on Castro Street (near 18th), the store hasn't closed—but it did move to a new home on Noe Street just off Market. After 21 years in the same spot, store owner Joan Tessler lost her lease last spring, and wasn't allowed to post a sign in the old location to let people know her new address.

Business took a dive as a result, she says, but now things are looking up, and the store's new home—in a 1902 restored Victorian, replete with original stained glass, parquet floors, antique fixtures, and an arched fireplace—provides the perfect backdrop for her jewelry and women's clothing collection.

Jewelry makes up 80 percent of the store's sales, with pieces ranging from \$25 rings to works of art valued at thousands of dollars. Tessler, a longtime Noe

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Valley resident, is particularly proud of the shop's collection of wedding and commitment rings, many in 14- and 18-karat gold. In a recent poll, Bay Guardian readers chose the Jerusalem Shoppe as San Francisco's "Best Jewelry Store."

The shop's inventory also includes clothing that Tessler describes as "timeless," as well as statuary from Ceylon, Indonesia, Chile, England, Peru, and France.

One key to the Jerusalem Shoppe's longevity is Tessler's willingness to fulfill special requests. For example, the store is currently looking for a moonstone pin of a particular size and shape for one client. "We're not loyal to any certain lines," says Tessler, which gives her the freedom to expand and tailor the merchandise to her customers.

The Jerusalem Shoppe is open from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Saturday, and 11:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Sunday.

—Bill Yard

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SEPTEMBER

AUG. 31—SEPT. 2: The 12th annual Absolut À LA CARTE, À LA PARK offers food, music, wine, and spirits to benefit the San Francisco Shakespeare Festival. 11 am–6 pm. Golden Gate Park, Sharon Meadow 383-9378

SEPT. 1: Cate du Nord presents SWING MUSIC by Lee Press-Dn & the Nails with deejay Reverend Stimm Buick and free dance lessons from the Fabulous Juan. 8 pm. 2170 Market St. 861-5016

SEPT. 3: Visual Aid Artists for AIDS Relief sponsors a reception to honor of ARTIST Don Bachardy and an exhibition of his portrait drawings, "Observant Eye" 6–9 pm. The De Young Museum, Golden Gate Park. 777-8242.

SEPT. 3: Dr. Betty Carmack moderates a free PET LDSS support group at the SPCA. 7–9 pm. 2500 16th St. 554-3000.

SEPT. 3: The Dranj Symphonette performs the music of HENRY MANCINI at the Elbo Room. 10 pm. Valencia near 17th St. 552-7788.



SEPT. 3, 10 & 17: Preschool STORY TIME for children ages 3–5 at the Noe Valley Library begins at 10 am. 451 Jersey St. 695-5095.

SEPT. 4: The Main Library hosts a lecture by Richard Taruskin on the OPERA Prince Igor. Noon. Koret Auditorium, 100 Larkin St. 557-4525.

SEPT. 4, 11, 18 & 25: The Noe Valley Library hosts LAPSTS for babies, toddlers, and their parents at 7 pm. 451 Jersey St. 695-5095

SEPT. 5: Doug Dowd leads a class on ECDNDMICS, "Getting Our Heads Screwed on Straight About Current Controversies and Proposals" 7 pm. Modern Times Bookstore, 888 Valencia St. 282-9246

SEPT. 5: Learn SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING at an introductory class, no partners are needed, but bring flat shoes. 8 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 333-9372.

SEPT. 6: National Arthritis Foundation certified instructor Dawn Summers leads a free introductory class, "People With ARTHRITIS Can Exercise." 11 am–noon. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 285-1831

SEPT. 6: Community Music Center offers a free DIRECTION for new students, with information about classes and facilities 6–7 pm. 544 Capp St. 647-6015

SEPT. 7: The San Francisco Women's Building and Alumnae Resources cohost a WORKSHOP for craftswomen, "Selling at a Crafts Fair." 10 am–3 pm. 120 Montgomery St. 274-4700.

SEPT. 7: Noe Valley author Dennis Lewis signs his BOOK The Tao of Natural Breathing, from 5 pm. Cover to Cover, 3910 24th St. 282-8080

SEPT. 7: Wallace Johnson sings original SONGS and standard favorites at Mavericks coffeehouse. 8 pm. 300 Chenery St. 584-7759

SEPT. 7: ACOUSTIC DUD Box Set performs at the Noe Valley Ministry. 8:15 pm. 1021 Sanchez St. 454-5238.



Friends of the San Francisco Public Library holds its giant book sale Sept. 12–15 at Fort Mason. Photo by Karen Preuss

SEPT. 7–9 & 14: Exit Theatre's FRINGE FESTIVAL presents Dolphin/Julia Trahan in "Queen of the Girls." Sat. Sept. 7, 5:30 pm; Sun., 8:30 pm; Mon., 6 pm; Sat. Sept. 14, 10 pm. 159 Eddy St. 673-5944.

SEPT. 7 & 21: Kristen Diver-Cameron leads "A Sole Solution to Stress," a FOOT REFLEXLOGY therapy class, with massage by donation. 1–4 pm. Beyond the Sea, 1303 Castro St. 285-4614.

SEPT. 7 & 28: Faith Darling hosts a free WORKSHOP on tax savings for new homeowners and prospective home buyers. 1–3 pm. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St. 821-4744

SEPT. 8: West Coast Family Services offers a free WORKSHOP series focused on finding the sell through the psycho-spiritual process. 10:30 am–12:30 pm. Call 585-7662 for preregistration.

SEPT. 8: The Noe Valley Chamber Music Series features a VOCAL RECITAL by soprano Rachel Lopez and mezzo-soprano Emily Stern, accompanied by Leslie McWilliams. 2 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 282-2317

SEPT. 8: The Growing Stage's Fall THEATER FESTIVAL for youngsters promises crafts, face painting, storytelling, and edible goodies. 2 pm. The Marsh, 1062 Valencia St. 641-0235

SEPT. 8: Come to an OPEN HOUSE at the Noe Valley Ministry to celebrate completion of recent building improvements; refreshments and a tour are promised. 4:30–6:30 pm. 1021 Sanchez St. 282-2317

SEPT. 8: Noe Valley Ministry's CANTATE service of chanting, meditation and prayer begins at 7 pm. 1021 Sanchez St. 282-2317

SEPT. 10: An eight-week program of gentle exercise for ARTHRITIS sufferers, instructed by Dawn Summers, begins at 4:45 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 285-1831 or 673-6882.

SEPT. 10 & 28: The SPCA offers VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION for cat socializers, dog walkers and adoption counselors. Sept. 10, 5–7 pm; Sept. 28, 10 am–noon. 2500 16th St. 554-3087



SEPT. 11: The Noe Valley DEMOCRATIC CLUB introduces candidates for San Francisco supervisor at its general membership meeting. 8 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 821-4087

SEPT. 12: The SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING session starts at 8 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 333-9372.

SEPT. 12–14: Community Music Center offers REGISTRATION for new students age 4 through adult. Thurs. & Fri., 3–7 pm.; Sat., 10 am–1 pm. 544 Capp St. 647-6015

SEPT. 12–15: Celebrate Banned Books Week at the Friends of the Public Library's annual BDDK SALE. Thurs., 4–8 pm; Fri.–Sun., 10 am–6 pm. Fort Mason Center, at the foot of Buchanan St. 557-4257.

SEPT. 13: Artists' Television Access screens a low-budget classic FILM, The Brain Eaters, starring Leonard Nimoy as the chief alien invader. 8 pm. 992 Valencia St. 824-3890.

SEPT. 14: The Marsh Theater's Growing stage begins six-week THEATER WORKSHOPS for children ages 5–9. 1062 Valencia St. Call 826-5750 for registration and information.

SEPT. 14: Vocalists David Bettecci, Camille Davis, Deborah Garrett, Elfrieda Langemann, Ellen St. Thomas, and Eleander Wall perform MUSIC by a range of composers, accompanied by pianist Jim Meredith. 8 pm. Community Music Center, 544 Capp St. 647-6015.

SEPT. 14: MYSTERY writer G M Ford signs Cast in Stone. San Francisco Mystery Bookstore, 4175 24th St. Call 282-7444 for time.

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C A L E N D A R

SEPT. 15: Precita Eyes Mural Arts Center offers a citywide MURAL TOUR on the flying Mexican Bus, "El Volado." Depart from 34B Precita Ave. at 1 pm. 285-2287

SEPT. 15: Cellist Anne Lerner-Wright and pianist Renee J. Wilton perform a RECITAL of works by Bach, Beethoven, and Shostakovich. 3 pm. Community Music Center, 544 Capp St. 647-6015

SEPT. 16: The Diamond Senior Center's September birthday party and "Forty-Niner" DANCE runs from 1-3 pm, after a luncheon at noon. 117 Diamond St. 663-3507.

SEPT. 18: POET Patricia reads from *The Woman Without Experiences*. 7:30 pm. Modern Times Bookstore, 8BB Valencia St. 282-9246.

SEPT. 18–Nov. 6: Parents Place offers a WORKSHOP for parents of children age 2-7, "How to Talk So Kids Will Listen." 7-9 pm. 3272 California St. 563-1041.

SEPT. 18–Oct. 13: MAGIC THEATRE's Magic TDD Series begins with Ghostlight Theatre Company's "Hunting for Moby Dick." Wed.–Sat., 8:30 pm; Sun., Sept. 22 & Oct. 6, 2 pm, Sun., Sept. 29 & Oct. 13, 7:30 pm. Fort Mason Center, Building D. 441-B822

SEPT. 21: The San Francisco FrontRunners host the 15th annual Lesbigay SPORTS DAY and Picnic on Angel Island. Chartered ferries depart at 9 and 10 am, and 2 pm from Pier 43½ at Fisherman's Wharf. For information call 776-3442

SEPT. 21: Bethany United Methodist Church holds a RUMMAGE SALE from 10 am–3 pm. 1268 Sanchez St. 647-B393

SEPT. 21: The Writing Parlor offers a workshop about getting into print, "The Gentle Art of Literary Submission." 10 am–4 pm. Call 252-7296 to enroll

SEPT. 21: The local chapter of AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL organizes a "Write a Letter, Save a Life" campaign, benefiting prisoners of conscience. Noon–3 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. B24-4B26.

SEPT. 21: Golden Gate Metropolitan Community Church hosts an eclectic CONCERT by the 8-member lesbian and gay vocal ensemble Inspiration. 7 pm. 1508 Church St. (510) 686-9280.

SEPT. 21: The Noe Valley MUSIC Series presents Merle Kessler and J. Raoul Brody's "An Evening of Song... Again," featuring over a dozen artists exploring the musical theme "Again." 8 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 454-5238.

SEPT. 21 & 22: The West Portal Fine Arts and Music FESTIVAL offers visual and performing arts along West Portal Avenue between 14th and 15th aves. All day, both days. 751-0211.



SEPT. 21–Oct. 13: Brava! For Women in the Arts presents a COMEDY performance, "Radio Mambo: Culture Clash Invades Miami." Wed.–Sat., 8 pm; Sun., 3 pm. Brava Theater Center, 27B9 24th St. 487-5401



Jazz pianist Jessica Williams gives her only San Francisco performance Sept. 28 at the Noe Valley Ministry.

SEPT. 22: EARL EMERSON signs his two new mysteries, *The Million Dollar Tattoo* and *Going Crazy in Public*. 1–2 pm. San Francisco Mystery Bookstore, 4175 24th St. 282-7444

SEPT. 24: The Noe Valley Library screens FILMS for children 3–5 at 10 and 11 am. 451 Jersey St. 695-5095.

SEPT. 24: CHILDREN'S BOOK author Tomi de Paola reads and signs his latest work. 3 pm. Cover to Cover, 3910 24th St. 282-8080.

SEPT. 25: The San Francisco Mystery Bookstore hosts a booksigning by J. A. Jance, author of *Dead to Rights*. 1–2 pm. 4175 24th St. 282-7444

SEPT. 25: The DOLDRES HEIGHTS Improvement Club's semi-annual meeting begins 7 pm at the Noe Valley Ministry. For info call 647-422B

SEPT. 25: Harvard sociology professor WILLIAM JULIUS WILSON discusses his book, *When Work Disappears — The World of the New Urban Poor*. 7:30 pm. Modern Times Bookstore, BBB Valencia St. 282-9246

SEPT. 26: Les Blank's 1978 FILM *Hof Pepper*, spotlights Cajun life in Louisiana and the Zydeco music of Clifton Chenier. Noon. Main Library, Koret Auditorium, 100 Larkin St. 557-4515

SEPT. 26: Children and adults are invited to learn Scottish Country DANCING at an ongoing class at the Noe Valley Ministry. 6:30–7:30 pm. 1021 Sanchez St. 239-5776

SEPT. 26: The Upper Noe Neighbors' MEETING features a presentation and discussion of underground utility procedures by DPW and S.F. Beautiful. 7:30 pm. Upper Noe Rec Center, Day at Sanchez St. 641-5989.

SEPT. 26: DDC Performance Gallery hosts "Pilot 21," DANCE works by six emerging choreographers. 8 pm. 3153 17th St. 663-9834.

SEPT. 28: Precita Eyes Mural Arts Center offers a Mission MURAL TOUR on the Mexican Bus. Meet 9:30 am in front of the museum of Modern Art, 151 3rd St. For reservations call 285-2287.

SEPT. 28: MYSTERY writer Keith Snyder signs *Show Control*. 1–2 pm. San Francisco Mystery Bookstore, 4175 24th St. Call 282-7444 for time.

SEPT. 28: Live Oak School is calling all "acorns" (alumni and their families) to a REUNION PICNIC and barbecue. 3–7 pm. 117 Diamond St. 861-8840.

SEPT. 28: JESSICA WILLIAMS performs a solo piano concert for the Noe Valley Music Series. 8:15 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 454-5238.

SEPT. 28 & 29: The Contemporary CRAFTS MARKET features work by over 240 artists from across the country. 10 am–6 pm. The Concourse at Showplace Square, 635 Eighth St. 995-4925



A Ghostly Reminder

Do you have a costume party, haunted house, witches' coven, candidates' debate, or something even scarier planned for October? We'd be thrilled and horrified to publicize your event (for free) in the *Noe Valley Voice* Calendar.

To get your notice in the next issue—and out on the streets by Wednesday, Oct. 2—send us your calendar or other news item by Sept. 15. Please mail it to the *Noe Valley Voice*, 1D21 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114.

Calendar questions or last-minute changes should be directed to Karol at 285-6347. Note that items are published on a space-available basis, with Noe Valley events receiving priority. Thank you. □

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AUNT HERMIONE'S KITCHEN

A Rainbow of Beans

I was surprised enough to see a taxi pull into our driveway, but when Aunt Hermione climbed out, my heart almost stopped. Was she all right? The driver opened the trunk and took out four large grocery bags. I hurried out to help bring them inside.

"Aunt Hermione! Where have you been? I thought you were just going for your morning 'constitutional.'"

"Just wait until we get inside! I have so much to tell you!"

She sat in a kitchen chair as I began to take things out of bags and put them away.

"Couldn't you make me a cup of tea, dear? In fact, there's a very nice Darjeeling in one of those bags."

I turned the stove on under the kettle and began rummaging through the groceries. There were fresh fruits and vegetables, shrink-wrapped packages of cheese, bread, and crackers—and many small plastic and paper bags tied with fasteners and marked with numbers, in Aunt Hermione's fine hand. There was pasta, rice, herbs—there was the tea! I stopped and looked up.

Aunt Hermione smiled at me. "That's it, dear. I've been to the new Rainbow Grocery Store!"

"But Aunt Hermione! Why—that's not even in Noe Valley! That's all the way over at Folsom and Duboce—"

"Well, I certainly ought to know where it is! I had just gone for my walk and passed by where the old Community Store was—you know how much I miss it—and I knew we needed all sorts of groceries, and you never seem to have time to shop lately, so I thought I'd surprise you."

"So I crossed Sanchez Street to Jack's corner store, and of course they let me use the telephone to call a taxi, and the driver knew right where it was. He even stopped his taxi and came in with me because he said he needed some things himself. And my goodness, you never saw such a sight as that store! They have absolutely everything, especially in the way of the health food you youngsters love."

Aunt Hermione was right. I had been awfully busy lately, and in fact, I hadn't been to Rainbow—or to any major grocery store—in ages. For weeks, even months, we'd been out of all the things we used to buy at the Community Store: rice, couscous, even oregano. I'd been trying to grab little things at Real Food whenever I walked to "Downtown Noe Valley," but the thought of driving to 24th Street and fighting for parking made me cringe.

The water was boiling, and I poured some into Aunt Hermione's favorite mug over a tea ball filled with the new tea. It did smell good.

I sat down too. "Thank you for shopping, Aunt Hermione. I hope you're not worn out."

"Worn out! Goodness, no. If anything, I'm overstimulated. That store is positively palatial. They have every type of rice, and they must have a hundred sorts of beans. The hard part was deciding which ones, but I've gotten these lovely scarlet runner beans, and I'm going to make us some Pasta Fazool!"

Pasta Fazool? It sounded like something from a '50s TV comedy show.

"And what, pray tell, is Pasta Fazool?"

"Oh, it's an Italian dish with beans and pasta. You'll see, it's wonderful."

Beans? I was doubtful.

"Aunt Hermione, you didn't happen to pick up any Beano, did you?"

"Beano? I don't believe I know it. Is it some kind of seasoning? I know how to season Pasta Fazool, believe me."

"No, it's not a seasoning, it's..." I didn't know how to be delicate. "It's, um, you know, it mitigates the effect—it makes them more digestible."

"Humph. I know exactly what you're talking about, dear, but you don't know my special bean-cooking secret. If you soak them long enough and if you keep changing the water, you won't have that problem. People are too impatient these days. They use canned beans, and they don't take the time to soak them properly, and then they have all sorts of embarrassing problems and they blame the poor little beans."

"Now I'll put those scarlet runners on to soak as soon as I finish my tea, and roast those pasilla chiles now, too. Then I'll change their water before I go to bed, and a few more times tomorrow, and we can have them for tomorrow's dinner."

I meant to sneak out myself for the Beano, but I was so busy I just forgot. Anyway, I should have known better than to doubt Aunt Hermione. Her "secret" of changing the soaking water every few hours really worked, and her "Pasta Fazool" was one of the most delicious bean dishes I've ever tasted. I was glad we had enough left over to freeze. □



Pasta Fazool

Ingredients:

- 1 pound penne pasta
- 1 pound scarlet runner beans
- 1 tablespoon dried broth mix
- 1/2 cup red wine (zinfandel or beaujolais type)
- 1 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce
- 1 bay leaf
- Grated parmesan cheese

Soak beans overnight or longer, changing water and rinsing every few hours. Cover with 2 inches of water and bring to boil slowly. Remove foam. When foam is gone, add broth mix, wine, Worcestershire sauce, and bay leaf. Cook gently for 2 hours, adding vegetable mixture below for the last hour. Watch and stir and add water or wine if needed to keep beans from sticking.

Vegetable Mixture

- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 3 cloves garlic, chopped
- 1 medium carrot, chopped
- 1 or 2 small pasilla chiles, roasted and chopped
- 1 teaspoon dried basil
- 1 teaspoon dried oregano
- 1 tomato, chopped

Heat olive oil in a skillet and add chopped onion, garlic, carrot, and chiles when a light haze forms over the oil. Cook slowly for a few minutes, then add herbs. When vegetables are soft—about 20 minutes more—add chopped tomato and cook gently another 10 minutes. Add this mixture to the beans when they have been cooking for about 1 hour.

When beans are done, boil 1 pound penne macaroni in 4 quarts water for 7–10 minutes (use directions on package). Drain and toss with cooked beans. Sprinkle parmesan cheese on top. Serves 8–12.



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We've Got Readers!



Voice contributor Karen Topakian found this snapshot while doing some recent house-cleaning. It proves her assertion that she and friends Audrey Koh (center) and Gaeta Bell (right), all of Noe Valley, had in fact visited the hometown of famed local journalist Jeff Kaliss, Bah Hahba, Maine, in September of 1995.

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A Visit to the Upper Noe Neighbors Meeting

By Anne Gates

Editor's Note: This summer, when given a choice of attending either the Republican National Convention in San Diego or a meeting of one of the many neighborhood associations in Noe Valley, Voice reporter Anne Gates chose the Noe Valley meeting, of course. She attended the July 25 meeting of the Upper Noe Neighbors, a close-knit group of residents living in "upper" or "outer" Noe Valley. That's the southern half of the neighborhood, extending roughly from Clipper to 30th Street (and several hilly blocks beyond) and from Dolores to Diamond Heights. As you can see, Anne came back with much more serious news than was generated by the Republicans. Here are her notes.

Cookies, cold metal chairs, committee reports...it must be the U.N., I mean the U.N.N. (Upper Noe Neighbors), congregating for their regular meeting at the Upper Noe Recreation Center on Day Street.

First on the evening's agenda was a talk by Supervisor Barbara Kaufman, who was unveiling her plan to streamline city services and to improve communication between city government and residents.

Let's Give Customer Service a Whirl

"I wish I could take credit for this brilliant idea," Kaufman said, "but it's already being done in Sacramento, Buffalo, Seattle, Minneapolis, and San Diego."

What is it? It's the proposed Department of Neighborhood Services (DNS), a way to bring "one-stop shopping" to City Hall.

"I don't think there's an adequate delivery of services currently," Kaufman said. With a Neighborhood Services Department, she added, "this city could be the Nordstrom's of city government."

As envisioned by Kaufman, the department would be staffed by a new breed of neighborhood planners, each assigned to a particular pocket of San Francisco.

The neighborhood planner would have the authority to "get things done," Kaufman said, and could send out a team of city employees to solve problems, offer advice, and handle requests for city services.

Ideally, just one planner would be assigned to each neighborhood, so that residents could always talk to the same person. The planner for Noe Valley might be available on Tuesday, or twice a month. His or her team might also set up a storefront or "mini City Hall" on Church Street.

Residents could go through the DNS for just about anything — sidewalk repair, tree-trimming, noise abatement, building permits, stop signs, parking stickers, after-school activities, you name it. The planner would act as a traffic manager, linking the departments of Public Works, Parking and Traffic, Public Health, Police, Fire, Planning, and Building Inspection.



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The Sunshine Girls: Dana McFadden (left) and Mel Reichert showed off the bounty of summer near their home on Sanchez Street.

Photo by Beverly Tharp

Kaufman cited a recent bureaucratic snafu on Clement Street (one that could easily be duplicated on 24th Street). The Clement Street merchants were taking up too much sidewalk space, and their delivery trucks were blocking traffic and parking illegally. Garbage was piling up in the streets and blowing around the whole neighborhood. Five separate city departments had to be called in to deal with the problems, Kaufman said. This red tape might have been avoided had the DNS been coordinating the city's response.

Kaufman pointed out that the DNS, as currently proposed, would use existing city staff and resources, with no new money spent. City employees from existing departments could be "redeployed," and therefore used more efficiently.

She suggested that a small pilot program was the most feasible way to begin. But as of now, the DNS is still on the drawing board. And she is looking for community feedback. She invites residents to write to her with their ideas and questions: Supervisor Barbara Kaufman, 401 Van Ness Ave., Room 308, San Francisco, CA 94102. Or you can call her office at 554-4880.

The UNN response to Kaufman's plan was quite supportive, and many residents particularly liked the idea that the new department would not require extra funding.

Vote in Favor of Muni Art

Artist Tirso Gonzalez and Muni community liaison John Scott also made an appearance at the meeting. Gonzalez was selected by the city's Art Commission to

paint mural designs for the new wheelchair ramps along the J-Church line.

Gonzalez brought scaled-down color samples of his two alternative designs. Both artworks symbolized the cultural diversity of the neighborhoods served by the J-Church line, he said, and both were intended to represent themes of friendship and community.

As other neighborhood groups had done recently, the Neighbors voted for their favorite painting. The winning artwork, which features stylized palm trees and animals, was the same piece eventually chosen by Muni to adorn all four stops on the line. (See story on Muni art, page 7.)

St. Paul's Condos Get Greener

Developer Parker Sorg, of Evergreen Pacific Corporation, made a second visit to the UNN, this time with a new set of blueprints for converting St. Paul's old high school and convent into condominiums. The new proposal creates 39 off-street parking spaces (for 37 units). The entire first floor of the high school will be a parking garage.

Residents near the condominium complex, located on 29th and Day streets near Church, had been concerned about their privacy, so Sorg's new proposal moves the roof deck to the front part of one of the buildings and provides for tall trees to be planted between the project and adjoining residences.

In the new plan, landscaping would also replace the church's existing parking lot on 29th Street.

The project still must pass several hurdles, however. Although the environmental evaluation is almost finished, a conditional use permit and a planned use development permit are still needed. A preliminary Landmarks Board review was recently completed, and Sorg expects the Landmarks permit to be forthcoming. A Planning Commission hearing (open to the public) will be held in late September.

UNN Co-Chair Sue Bowie noted a distinct change in the tenor of the condominium discussion over the past two months. "At the last meeting, everyone was so upset," she said, adding to Sorg, "You've made tremendous concessions, and the project is the better for it."

Indeed, the Neighbors' response to Sorg's new drawings was very positive, and the UNN is considering sending a letter to the Planning Commission in favor of the project.

The Wires Down Under

Bowie next urged Noe Valley residents who would like to see their utility wires go underground to attend the Upper Noe Neighbors meeting on Thursday, Sept. 26. (The group meets every other month.)

San Francisco Beautiful, an organization that supports underground utility lines, will give a presentation on how to petition the city to remove overhead wires and poles, and put them under the sidewalk or street.

To create an "underground district," neighbors must have petitions signed by a majority of the residents in their area. (The minimum size for an underground district is four contiguous blocks.)

Undergrounding enhances views and increases property values, but the cost to each homeowner runs from \$2,500 to \$4,000. The good news is that you can pay over the course of five years.

Also on tap for next month's meeting is a visit from Carmen Castro-Rojas, who will describe San Francisco's Neighborhood Safety Partnership program. A representative from the S.F. recycling program will be on hand to talk about the city's recycling services. And Ingleside Police Officer Ed Collins will stop by, to discuss neighborhood crime concerns.

There will also be reports from the group's open space and graffiti committees. The meeting starts at 7:30 p.m., at the Upper Noe Recreation Center on Day and Sanchez streets.

If you'd like more up-to-the-minute information, call one of the Upper Noe Neighbors' current co-chairs: Sue Bowie, 824-1062; Janice Gendreau, 641-5989; or Vicki Rosen, 285-0473. □

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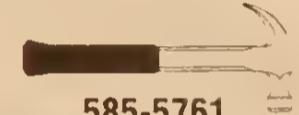
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by Florence Holub

How We Spent Our Summer Vacation

Our "vacation" at home this year went effortlessly and pleasantly, but—how should I describe it—rather sluggishly. My man Leo and I did not dare stray far from our house because the long-awaited (20 years) installation of underground wiring had reached the at-any-moment stage.

Jimmy, the electrical contractor who completed much of the side-to-house connections on our block, managed to get the power conduits into our home in spite of the solid concrete barrier facing the street. He did this by going in and up through an opening in the cement garage ceiling, thus avoiding the exposure of unsightly pipes at our frontage.



Our period of confinement has been enlivened, however, by the antics of the 3-inch-long, mottled brown slug who began squeezing under our back door over a year ago. (I first wrote about our nocturnal visitor last September.)

In all that time, we have only actually seen him twice, but because of the beautiful trails of silver with which he embellishes our rug, we have become very aware of his presence, as well as the extent of his journeys.

It has become our habit to arise at dawn and examine our visitor's itinerary of the previous night. In the beginning, our little forager (whom we named Freddie, after our dog who passed away some years ago) explored every area of the rug. But within a few weeks he'd settled on a spot directly below the counter where Leo sprinkled chocolate powder into his coffee every morning. No doubt, some of the sweet powder drifted down to the rug.

Upon realizing the purpose of the little crawler's visits, Leo started depositing a more ample serving on that edge of the rug. Not long after, we found a silver pattern that seemed to be very carefully executed. It even looked as if it might be a self-portrait! In the "portrait," the slug's tail was pointing to the spot where he'd found his chocolate bonus. Beneath it was an indecipherable message that we took to be a thank-you note.

The comings and goings continued until the morning we found an unmoving, stretched-out brown slug in the middle of the rug. We assumed, sadly, that Freddie had chosen to expire in the place that had nourished him for so long. But as we looked down on him, we detected a sign of life, a slight movement. Then inertia. Then another slight movement. Bit by bit, he inched his way toward the back door, but it took a long time for him to go a short distance.

When he finally did near the door that he usually slipped under so easily, Freddie veered to the left, as if to hide

out behind a drawing board leaning against the wall. Not wishing to deal with a dying slug, I gently scooped him up on a piece of cardboard and carried him down under the deck to where his trail ended at ground level.

For three mornings we saw no sign of Freddie. But on the fourth day, surprisingly, we found a new, lavish rendering in silver, which to us indicated a complete recovery from what we had diagnosed as a chocolate overdose.

During the months that followed, the trails grew thinner and sometimes were broken, which suggested to us that our friend was either getting old or running out of whatever fuel mollusks require. So to help him conserve his energy, Leo started feeding Freddie at the corner of the small rug just inside the back door. This savvy little creature found his new dining area the very next morning, and since then has not ventured from it.

Small wonder! His old route must have been exhausting. First, he had to climb up the vertical wall of the house to get inside. Then he had to crawl 12 feet across the carpet. I calculate that Freddie covered, proportionately, the same distance that I do to get to and from 24th Street. But I don't make the trip every single day, as he did!

Things perked up for a few days when we entertained visitors from the Netherlands—friends of our doctor friend Else, who now lives there.

In preparation for showing them our beautiful city, Leo and I went downtown to the top of the Marriott Hotel to check out the panoramic view that we had heard so much about. It was breathtaking!

Upon meeting our Dutch visitors, we saw immediately that they did not need our help, for they were quite able to take care of themselves. Both the father, Sjoerd, and his son, Wierd, spoke flawless English, without a trace of an accent. (If Wierd strikes you as a weird name, just know that in the Netherlands, it is a proud name with respected historical importance.)

Sjoerd, a computer executive, was eager to take advantage of the many computer-related business centers here. Wierd, who was wearing a Nirvana tee shirt, had already made a dash to the Haight-Ashbury. Next on his list of places to visit was Alcatraz. He knew all about it from seeing movies filmed there. Unfortunately, he was unable to go because of a thick fog that forced the ferry ride, as well as the tour of the prison, to be canceled.

As planned, we took them to the top of the Marriott, but the view was not at all what we had hoped. The fog was so dense as we circled the succession of view windows that we could see only an ocean of thick gray mist.

Fortunately, our guests agreed to come visit us at our house, which sits high on the 21st Street hill. From our window they could see for themselves that it is not foggy everywhere in San Francisco. Noe Valley proved to be a sunny oasis overlooking the downtown buildings that rose in dramatic silhouette against the backdrop of white fog covering the bay.

Over dinner, we shared a friendly conversation. Since we were clearly enjoying his bright young son, who was of an age to be our grandchild, Sjoerd asked if we had grandchildren. We had to answer that we did not—and that our sons were single at the moment, although for a decade we did have a step-granddaughter named Jessica. And we once had a dog called Freddie.

But the closest thing we had to a grandchild, we told him, was a brown slug, also named Freddie, who came to visit us every night.



Using chocolate as an incentive, Florence and Leo Holub taught their slug "Freddie" to communicate in Chinese last month. Next up: English As a Second Language.

Photo by Leo Holub

I must confess, we went on about our slug as enthusiastically as the most doting of grandparents. Now *that* really is weird! But at least we know where he goes at night!

After dinner, as our guests drove off down our thrillingly steep grade, they smiled and waved jubilantly from their rented Mustang convertible. Since they came from a flat country, we imagined that our hilltop was the high point of their trip, and we were pleased that their short stay had come to such a happy ending.

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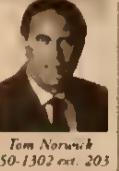
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Liberty Street resident Katherine Michiels holds two members of the infant/toddler ~ "Peach" program: daughter Mary Katherine (left) and her pal Leah on the school's back deck. "I wanted to make a difference in the world, and decided I could do it best by working with children," she says. "Katherine Michiels School is the result."

Katherine Michiels School: Caring for Kids From Three Months Through Second Grade

Photos by Pamela Gerard

Jonathan (left), Paula, and Jana check out the roving photographer before moving on to snack time. The school has a large kitchen and fulltime cook serving nutritious meals without meat or sugar. Food is also available for families to take home.



In 1913, the president of U.S. Steel built the three-story Victorian at 1335 Guerrero St., so he could view his Mission District factory from his southern balcony. In 1984, 25 kids plus the staff of Katherine Michiels School moved in from their original site on Irving Street. After a major clean-up and paint job, the school population quickly swelled to 60.





Photographer Pamela Gerard knows kids and the places they go. For the Noe Valley Voice, she's captured the faces and spirits of scores of Noe Valley children—most recently those of Debra King School on 26th Street and Wind in the Willows on Church.

This issue, Gerard visits Katherine Michiels School down the hill from Noe Valley's southern boundary, and shows us the look and feel of one of San Francisco's premier preschools.

If you're interested in Pamela Gerard photographing your school in Noe Valley, please give her a call at 821-7245.

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Afternoon teacher and director of the evening care program Nita Ferrer brings out the paint buckets for some sidewalk art. "I love the freedom here," says Ferrer. She enjoys helping preschoolers learn by playing. The evening program runs from 6 p.m. until midnight on weekdays, when you'll find Ferrer and her charges painting up a storm in the downstairs "Spider Cave."

Sitting in a sea of 3- and 4-year-old "Pumpkins," teachers Mathew Smith (left) and Joe Marshall report that they love their work. "It's the most important job in the world, and I'm pretty good at it," says Smith. "And I get to be a kid myself sometimes."

Marshall, a Noe Valley resident, says, "This work has been my calling—I've been involved with kids my whole life." He also says the KMS kids are providing him with a great foundation for his entry into the teaching credential program at S.F. State.

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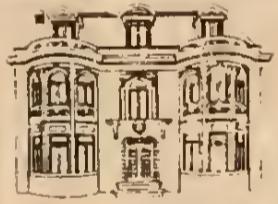
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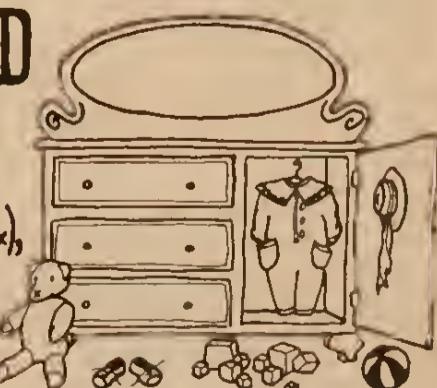
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MORE MOUTHS to feed

Weston Arenal Beam

By Maire Farrington

One of Noe Valley's newest residents, Weston Arenal Beam, has already been bitten by the travel bug. Since his arrival at California Pacific Medical Center at 8 p.m. on Dec. 3, 1995 (weighing 8 pounds, 9 ounces), Weston has been on the move. He has already crossed the Atlantic to visit relatives in London and to spend a leisurely couple of days in Paris.

"We took the Chunnel train over," says his mom, Lauren Beam, 32. "He did really well."

His dad, Mark Beam, 37, adds, "We put him in the back pack and he loved it. He sleeps there and just snuggles. People took a liking to him."

It could be that Weston inherited a love of travel from his parents, who moved to Noe Valley last August after leaving their home in Connecticut a year earlier and traveling throughout the United States and Central America.

In fact, "Weston" is the name of the town in Connecticut where Lauren and Mark lived before making their cross-country trek. And the distinguished middle name, "Arenal," is both a volcano and the name of a town in Costa Rica where Weston was conceived.

When at home, Weston enjoys a good deal of attention from both parents, whose lifestyle affords them plenty of time with their son. The couple first met in 1987 while working on the trading desk for a bank in Los Angeles. They were married in 1993, after a job transfer landed them on the East Coast.

"Our intent when we left Connecticut—since we were trying to have a baby—was to find ways that we could be home more," Lauren explains. Their solution? They both now work out of their home on 24th Street, where they are developing a business that involves technology, education, and "finding ways to help people deal with change." Mark is also writing a book about the impact of technology on society.

A strawberry blond who is the spitting image of his dad, 9-month-old Weston seems delighted to have Mom and Dad at his disposal. Dressed in a bright teal jumpsuit, he frequently displays a wide, toothless grin as he alternates between his parents' laps.

"He's number one," Mark says.

"And he knows it," Lauren agrees. "He's got both parents at home doting on



"Right on!" says Weston Arenal Beam, number-one son of Mark and Lauren Beam of 24th Street.

Photo by Beverly Tharp

him all day long. And since he looks a lot like Mark, I claim the credit for his personality, which is pretty happy."

"His arms are always open like he's ready to take everything in," Mark says.

When Mom and Dad are working, or off on their weekly Friday night date, Weston enjoys outings to Douglass Park or spending the evening at home with his Central American babysitters, Gerarda and Vilma, who are introducing him to a second language. "Both women speak Spanish full-time with him," Lauren says. "We're hoping that he'll learn it."

Weston also enjoys weekly jaunts with a moms' group, which Lauren started with a friend from her labor prep class. "We meet at a different place in the city and take walks. We just went to Fort Funston, and we're going to the library next week. That's really fun. He gets to see all his buddies."

Weston also has an affinity for the arts, and has already been to two openings at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art.

"He likes music," Lauren says. "His dad played guitar to him when I was pregnant. One day after Weston was born, Mark pulled his guitar out and started playing. Weston was mesmerized. I think he really remembered it. Mark says that Weston is his biggest fan."

"My only fan," Mark grins.

Weston's latest feats include crawling backwards ("It's that Michael Jackson moon walk," Dad notes) and holding his bottle by himself. "He acts like it's a bottle of wine," Mark says. "First he holds it

up, looks at it, and checks the year. Then he takes a drink."

Weston also entertains himself by studying his reflection in a mirror or gazing out through the window to take in the scene on 24th Street. "When he's crying and we can't figure anything else out, we just put him in front of the window," says Mark.

"Being a family together," Lauren reflects. "That's such a new thing. It was fun when we got married—a big change. And now it's fun to be a family of three."

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At that, Weston flashes one of his famous grins, as if to say, "You got it, Mom!" □



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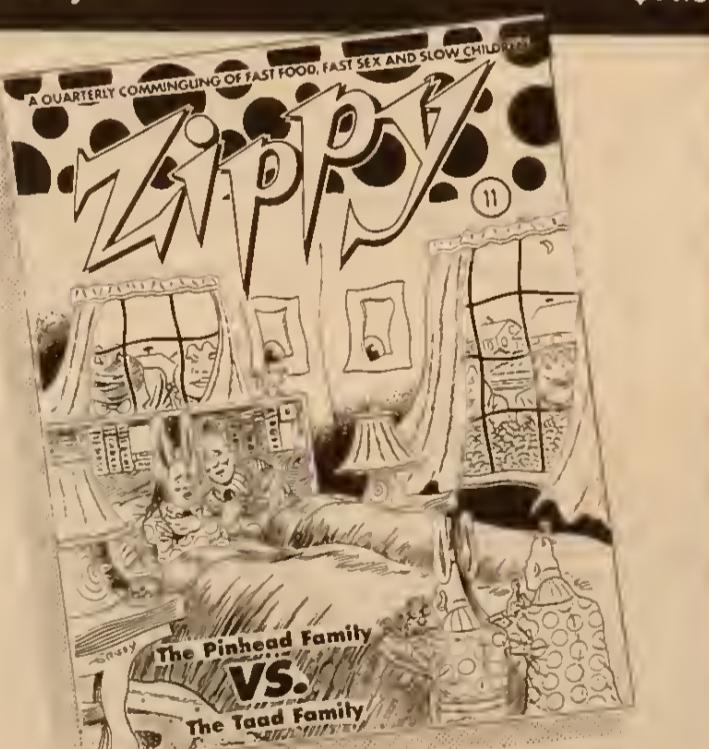
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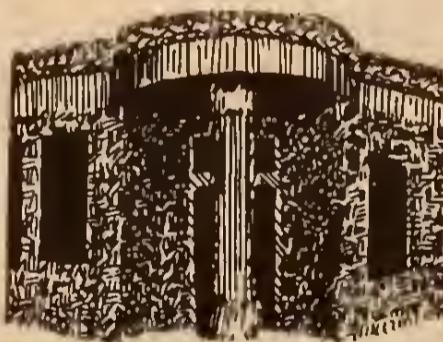
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MORE BOOKS to READ

Librarians Roberta Greifer, Carol Small, and Cornelia Van Aken-Sanks invite you to come in and check out the books and online services available at the Noe Valley-Sally Brunn Library, 451 Jersey St. (at Castro). Branch hours are Tuesdays, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Wednesdays, 1 to 9 p.m.; Thursdays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Fridays, 1 to 6 p.m.; and Saturdays, noon to 6 p.m. Phone: 695-5095.

Adult Fiction

◆ A spirited country songwriter won't let anything stand in the way of stardom, not even a stalking snake of an ex-husband, in Sarah Shankman's *I Still Miss My Man But My Aim Is Getting Better*.

◆ In Paul West's *The Tent of Orange Mist*, a Chinese scholar's teenage daughter must compromise herself in order to survive Japan's 1937 invasion of Nanking.

◆ *Last Act in Palmyra* is Lindsey Davis' latest Imperial Roman mystery featuring the irascible and reluctantly heroic private eye Marcus Didius Falco.

◆ A tough 19th-century private investigator tackles the seedy New York City underworld to solve a prostitute's murder in *Scarlet Women*, by J.D. Christian.

Adult Nonfiction

◆ *The Birder's Guide to Bed and Breakfasts*, by Peggy van Hulsteyn, describes B&B's in the top 100 bird-watching areas in the United States and Canada.

◆ *Ansel Adams*, written by his assistant Mary Street Alender, is a revealing personal portrait of the photographer and his life.

◆ Dianne Morrissey, a certified hypnotherapist, describes how to safely take out-of-body journeys in *Anyone Can See the Light: The Seven Keys to a Guided Out-of-Body Experience*.

◆ *Through Indian Eyes: The Untold Story of Native American People* is a lavishly illustrated look at American history as experienced by the first Americans.

For Parents

◆ In case you're seeking information on local public schools, the library now has a series of three books put out by 20/20 Publishing: *Choosing a Public Elementary School for Your Child in San Francisco*, *Choosing a Public Middle School for Your Child in San Francisco*, and *Choosing a Public High School for Your Child in San Francisco*.



This month's More Books to Read were selected by librarians Cornelia Van Aken-Sanks and Carol Small. All events take place at the Noe Valley-Sally Brunn Library, 451 Jersey St.

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and now for the
RUMORS
behind the news

Noe Valley I.Q. Test Results

NOE YOUR VALLEY: As we broke for summer vacation here in Rumorsland in July, you were given a final quiz. Passing this test requires at least five, count 'em, five correct answers. Here are the questions again, and the answers, too.

1. What is the zip code of the Noe Valley Post Office? That's an easy one: 94114.

2. Where was the Noe Valley Post Office located before it moved to its present location? Right across the street at 4068 24th St., where Classy Sweats is now.

3. What business occupied the spot now filled by Terra Mia pottery? The answer is the historic and now defunct bar the Cork 'n' Bottle. The bar moved from its former digs on 24th Street (where the Noe Valley Deli is now) to the middle of the block between Noe and Castro in 1974. Before the Cork 'n' Bottle moved in, a pet store called Lee's Tropicals and Pet Supplies occupied the space. Lee's moved up to 24th and Douglass and became the Animal Company. Before Lee's had the space in 1968, it was a butcher shop called Thompson's Meats. Got that?

4. What was Herb's Fine Foods called before it became Herb's? From 1943 to 1952, the cafe (at 24th & Noe) was called "X the Noe." In Downtown Noe Valley parlance, that meant "across from the [now extinct] Noe Theater."

5. The first what in California was built in 1896, in back of the shop now occupied

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Bill Griffith

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by the S.F. Mystery Bookstore? No mystery to Noe savants: the first automobile. It was called "Pioneer" and built by J. A. Meyer. His descendants changed the automobile shop into a printing company circa 1932, which operated there from then on.

6. Which 24th Street address was once occupied by Cameo Coffee, one of our espresso bean pioneers? 3913 24th St., the current home of the restaurant Savor (and before that the Courtyard Cafe). Cameo percolated in the spot from 1975 until 1983. Does anybody remember what was there before Cameo?

7. True or False: Dr. Michael McFadden's first office in Downtown Noe Valley was located on the second floor of the El Vira Building? The answer is false. The doctor started in the medical offices directly above Seymour's Drug Store in 1960. The drugstore was located on the southeast corner of 24th and Castro. Dr. McFadden's rent was \$125 per month, he says. He then moved to his present location in 1963. His doctor's office is on the ground floor of his house at 4060 24th St. (next to the Rat & Raven).

8. How many traffic lights are there in Downtown Noe Valley? One at 24th and Castro, one at 24th and Dolores, and a third at Church and 23rd.

9. Which DNV storefront has a picture of Ronald Reagan in it? Twin Peaks Properties at 4072 24th St., Noe Valley's oldest realty office. Longtime Reagan fan Harry Aleo is the proprietor.

10. The Philosopher's Stone was (a) a rock packaged and first available at Star Magic when it was known as Gifts of the Magi; (b) a nickname that was given to Fred Methner when he started painting out graffiti on the walls of Noe Valley; (c) the nickname that locals gave the weight scale at the old Meat Market Coffeehouse; or (d) the name of an eclectic shop selling mystical literature and holding Friday-night meetings of occult seekers. The answer is (d). There used to be Friday-night seances at the shop, which sat in a 100-year-old building at 3814 24th St. (next to Suzie's Laundry). The Philosopher's Stone hummed from 1974 to 1989.

IN OTHER CONSTRUCTION NEWS,

rumors are that the developer and the neighbors are close to an agreement over a proposed project at 66 Fountain St. (between 24th and 25th streets).

The property owner, Amido Hicho, originally proposed to demolish the cottage that sits at the back of his lot just below Grand View, and build two single-family dwellings which would rise above the street. Both houses would have been at least three stories high.

More than 50 neighbors and the Friends of Noe Valley signed a petition opposing the plan, saying it was out of scale with its surroundings. Many feared for the loss of open space between Fountain and Grand View, which they say is inhabited or visited by a very large population of hummingbirds.

The matter went before the City Planning Commission at the beginning of August. The commissioners told the parties to get together and iron out a compromise, preferably one that fell within Proposition M guidelines. Prop. M says all new buildings and renovations must reflect the character of the neighborhood.

Well, the two sides have met, and the rumor is that the developer is now willing to scale down the project to one single-family dwelling, which will be set back to match the topography of the hill. He also intends to leave significant open space.

The neighbors hope the rumor will materialize at the Planning Commission's Sept. 5 hearing.

Meanwhile, Seamus McGee's Sanchez Hilltop project is moving forward. Foundations for three of the houses have been poured, and the corner house at Sanchez and 21st is rapidly rising. The tree on the corner is hanging on to the hillside abutting the concrete.

However, the neighbors and McGee went to the Board of Permit Appeals twice in August, and the fate of the fourth lot is still in doubt.

Continued Next Page

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RUMORS

Continued from Previous Page

The Save Sanchez Hilltop group is hoping that somehow the lot can be saved for open space — maybe a butterfly preserve.

People thought they saw Mayor Brown checking out the hilltop on Aug. 11, but he was actually attending a fundraiser for Supervisor Sue Bierman at a nearby house.



UPDATING THE UPDATES: The fate of atmospheric conditions near Hahn's Hibachi on Castro Street was up in the air last month. As Rumors readers know, neighbors had been complaining about the pungent odors the restaurant was emitting since it opened last spring.

We reported here in July that owner Dave Bass was busy installing a special prefabricated odor-eater. It was supposed to be up and running by July's end. It was, but the motors were quite loud and now have been replaced with quieter ones.

But according to Dave, more delays have been caused by the fact that "the actual odor-removing element" has to be moved "to the exhaust end of the system." He thinks by the time you read this, the system will be 100 percent operational.

We'll have to update this updated update next month.



COOL PICK PICKS NEW LICKS: All you ice cream fans lamenting the closing last year of Double Rainbow's 24th Street parlor will rejoice at this news. The Cool Pick, a full service cafe at 3388 24th St. between Valencia and Mission, now features Double Rainbow Ice Cream.

The Cool Pick is also a pretty cool place to be. Local artists' paintings adorn the walls, and each chair and table are handpainted objects of art. Check it out.

Also, check out the art at Artemisia, the new Mexican crafts gallery located on the corner of 24th and Diamond (featured in this month's *Storetrek*).

Downtown Noe Valley may see yet another art gallery open up in the spot recently vacated by Aquarius Records.



This tiny cottage at 66 Fountain St. was originally slated to be torn down and replaced with two much larger three-story buildings. But the developer and neighbors may have ironed out a compromise: one house instead of two.

Photo by Charles Kennard

Yes, the record shop, a fixture on 24th Street since the Age of Aquarius, moved down the hill Sept. 1, to 1055 Valencia St. between 21st and 22nd.

According to Aquarius' Andee Conners, the store made the move to gain more room for its vast collection of "really hard to find and avant garde music."

The new space is so big, he says, local bands can play there live.

PRESS CLIPPINGS: Did you see the spread on 13 Noe Valley shops in the Aug. 14 edition of the *Examiner*? The article, part of the paper's Day Trips series, was titled, "No Place Like Noe: Shops Full of Wares, New and Old, to Furnish the Home."

I expect the story was quite a boon to the local economy. I especially liked the description of Lovejoy's Antiques & Tea Room on Church Street: "Customers can relax and have a 'cuppa' tea and then buy the tables or chairs where they were sitting.... The tea services and accoutrements are for sale as well."

Terry and Therese O'Rourke, who run the place, say the only problem with this policy is that they keep having to replace the furniture. "Someone always seems to want to buy our big table right before we have a reservation for a party of eight coming in!" laughs Therese.

The headline in the *S.F. Weekly* for July 23 blared in bold type, "Bomb's Away: The Pigeon Lady of Noe Valley Has Neighbors Diving for Cover."

Evidently, the city attorney's office has

filed a complaint against Anna Mura, the 85-year-old resident of Sanchez Street who refuses to stop feeding her feathered friends (illegally) on the sidewalk in front of her house. (For proof, check the wires near Bethany Church some afternoon. Get the feeling you're in a scene from Hitchcock's *The Birds*?)

As most Noe Valleons know, the neighbors, the police, and the Health Department have been involved in this flap with Mura for the past decade. We'll see whether this latest tactic brings results. Meanwhile, watch your head.

Other summer headlines in the daily papers focused on Jimmy Smyth, who had been a bartender at the Rover's Inn on 24th near Noe. In June, Jimmy lost his appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court to block his extradition to Ireland, where he'd escaped from a Belfast Prison 13 years ago. By August the headlines hailed his plane's arrival in Great Britain. Bye, Jimmy. Hope we see you again....

BYE BYE to you too, until next time. □

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Indulge Yourself with a 90-minute therapeutic massage for only \$49! Our introductory offer has been extended through Sept. 30! Receive a 90-minute massage (regularly \$65) at the 60-minute price of \$49. We are also offering simultaneous massages for couples at just \$98 (regularly \$120). By using two certified massage therapists, the couple sessions take place at the same time, either in one room, or the privacy of two separate rooms. All work is strictly nonsexual, and by appointment only. Offer applies to new clients' first visit. Sorry, not applicable on outside calls. North Star Bodywork — Therapeutic Massage, 4110 Geary Blvd., Suite 204 (between 5th and 6th avenues). (415) 468-7005.

Bed and Breakfast in Noe Valley. Experience the Victorian charm of old San Francisco in designer's beautiful, spacious, three-room suite with private entrance. Delicious fare, reasonable rates, two blocks to 24th Street. Massage available. "A Victorian Legacy." Call Patricia, 648-8879.

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Supplemental Income for a middle-aged or active elderly person who must live within a block or two of 24th and Sanchez streets. Active but aging man residing in a nice two-bedroom apartment not looking for a caregiver desires a person to stop by daily for a few minutes, and to vacuum and clean about six to eight hours a month. Please call Rich, 647-7205.

Group Therapy for Women with eating disorders. Food does not have to be the most important thing in your life. Overeating, throwing up, not eating are not as impossible to overcome as they may seem. We now have openings in our women's group. You may find it helpful to relate to others who are working to gain control of their lives and their eating. The group meets Thursdays from 6:30 to 8 p.m. The fee is \$25 per week. For further information, call Dr. Pat Sax, 661-7158.

Transcription & Typing Service: All sizes cassettes. Letters, resumes, reports, flyers, etc. Fax available. Nancy. Telephone: 821-2293.

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Childcare in My Noe Valley Home. Licensed. Providing a comfortable educational play environment within a small group setting of children. Hands-on activities including outside play, art, music, and short neighborhood trips are part of the fun. CPR-certified; ECE credits. For more information call Growing Up. Julie, 285-3119.

Art Classes. "The Figure with a Model": personal instruction in pastel, watercolor, mixed media. "The Figure in Monotype": no experience in printmaking but realize your artistic intent with Monotype, the simple solution. Call Chantap at (415) 285-8324. Both classes in comfortable and energetic environment provide the atmosphere for artist to flourish.

Part-time Bookkeeper/Back Office Person for busy Noe Valley travel agency. Light bookkeeping and computer experience a must. Resumes to: Dirt Cheap Travel, Inc., 3850 23rd St., San Francisco, CA 94114.

Now Forming: Integral Writing Group. Free introductory evening. Enhance your inner and outer voice through guided meditation, on-the-spot writing, journal sharing. All ages welcome. Limited to seven. Call for details. Jan Lurie, 285-4120.

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A Yogic Approach to HIV. This six-week class for anyone whose life has been touched with HIV will focus on practical tools for handling emotional issues, reducing stress, and improving physical health. Beginners welcome. Please register in advance. Send tuition, name, and phone number. Bring a towel, loose comfortable clothing, and an empty stomach. Mondays, beginning Sept. 9, 6 to 8 p.m., \$42. Integral Yoga Institute, 770 Dolores St. (415) 821-1117.

Fight the Throwaway Society! Fact: Most non-functioning donations to charitable organizations end up in landfills. You can help stop this pollution of Mother Earth by selling or donating your spent technological objects to us. What we can't repair, we recycle. Nothing gets wasted! We accept any of the following: TVs, VCRs, computers, faxes, stereo equipment or anything electronic, vacuum cleaners, microwave ovens, small appliances, power tools, video and photographic equipment. We invite you to buy our recycled items at huge savings. Trades are possible. Call the Recycled Technology shop at 282-SHOP anytime.

Room Wanted in Noe Valley. Responsible, mature, independent, non-smoking woman seeks similar female roommate(s) situation. Likes quiet, kitties, and cooking. Rent to \$600/month. Call 905-2637.

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Women's Writing Classes. Want to write but find it difficult to get started and keep going? Already writing but need a group for feedback and support? I provide a friendly, supportive atmosphere to give you the structure to write more and a community where you can share your writing. Class includes use of writing exercises, dreams, photos, etc. All types of writing: all levels of experience welcome. Small classes. Next 12-week series starts mid-September. Linda Elkin/Writing Circles for Women. (415) 337-7207.

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Housecleaner Available. Good references from Noe Valley residents. \$10/hour. Message, 824-3533. Yolanda.

Paint for Less. Interior/exterior. Expert crack repair, attention to detail. Free color consultation. We give you the very best for less! Excellent references. Call Nicki, 206-0646.

Many Paths, One Truth. Conflicts over religion cause much misery in the world, but looking closely into the traditions, we find only one truth, clothed in different languages. This talk will include Eastern, Western, and Native American influences. Tuesday, Sept. 10, 7:30 to 9 p.m., \$7. Integral Yoga Institute, 770 Dolores St. (415) 821-1117.

Home and Office Cleaning. Excellent references. Professional. Reasonably priced. Phone: (415) 757-6558.

Office for Rent in Noe Valley. Quiet, medium-size. Bright and a large closet. Share kitchen. Ideal for therapist or other professional. \$550 per month. 641-1405.

Psychology and Tarot: Combine 33 years of feminist psychology experience with 18 years' tarot experience, and you get an insightful look at your life situations and choices. Sliding scale \$45 to \$90 (1½-hour readings). Classes available (individual/group). Carol Painter, Ph.D., 346-1869.

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Monthly Writers Group for women meets in Noe Valley to provide support for challenges of writing, publishing, and the creative process, including: writer's block, inner critic, self-disclosure, failure/success issues, isolation, marketing with confidence. Individual consultation available. Maire Farrington, M.F.C.C. #24893, (415) 282-5965.

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Mothering Competent Daughters: Girlhood into Adolescence. Concerned your daughter will lose her self-confidence as she enters adolescence? Workshop for mothers who have daughters ages 9 to 14. Learn how to help your daughters resist burying their vitality, courage, and authentic expression. Saturday, Oct. 5, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. \$35. Darla Wolgast Romano, M.F.C.C. 752-6775.

Mothering Competent Daughters Support Group. Uncertain how to talk about topics like body image, sexuality, peer pressure, and media influence as your daughter moves toward adolescence? Monthly group offers information, dialogue, and a safe place for exploration with other mothers. \$30 per session. Six-session commitment. Darla Wolgast Romano, M.F.C.C. 752-6775.

Lovely Office Space at 21st and Dolores. Victorian, bay window, 12-by-14. Call Chris, (415) 641-0578.

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Dream Discoveries, Oct. 11–13, 1996, 18th annual women's country retreat dream workshop with Jeanne Adleman, counselor/educator and group leader known for her wide repertoire of approaches to dreams and for her respect for the dreamer. Maximum number 22, advance registration essential. Fees negotiable, \$160 to \$260, include exclusive use of beautiful Rainbow Ranch, Calistoga. For more information or a brochure, call Ruby Neal at (415) 346-8202. To negotiate your fee, call Jeanne at (415) 585-0666.

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Sublet or Housesit Desired, month of December, for my neat, clean, responsible parents. (415) 641-7691.

Apartment Sublet: Large furnished one-bedroom apartment with deck and view at 24th/Guerrero. Available October through December/January to responsible professional with references. \$700/month plus utilities. 647-3057.

Bisexual Support Group for Women. Information and open discussion for women who wish to explore and share their thoughts and feelings about this aspect of sexuality in a supportive and confidential environment. Make friends, build trust, and gain confidence in yourself and your choices. Tuesday, Sept. 24, 7 p.m. Call Terri at 648-0626.

Antique Oak Furniture for Sale: Dresser with beveled mirror, chest of drawers, and sideboard. Beautiful, elegant details in excellent condition from \$500 to \$850 or best offer. Queen brass-plated head and foot board with frame, \$75. Call 648-0626.

Housesitter Available. Sister of long-term Noe Valley resident needs a temporary place to stay while settling in San Francisco. Mature, responsible, non-smoker. Will take care of your house or apartment while you're away, any time between now and mid-November. Local references! Call 824-7837.

Housecleaning Available. Great references, experience. Driver's license. Call for Margarida, (415) 703-0261.

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Piano Lessons in your home by experienced teacher with master's degree. All levels and ages taught. 728-1050.

Children's Scottish Country Dance Class starts Thursday, Sept. 26, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., 1021 Sanchez St. Adults invited. \$3 per class. Call 239-5776.

Women's Group Focused on Weight Loss starting in September on Mondays from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Open to women who are healthy, have good relationships with friends and family, are significantly overweight, and willing to make an eight-week commitment to a structured program. Noe Valley. For more information call Valerie Hearn, Ph.D., 824-3701.

Handier Andy. Home Repairs, carpentry, decks, fences, sheet rock, finish taping. Skylights, windows, locks, ceramic tiling, painting. Linoleum, electrical, and plumbing repairs. Free estimate. 564-1175.

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Massage Therapy for Women. Stress reduction and relief of neck and back tension. My office or in your home. Janine, L.M.T. 468-5201.

Share/Solo Childcare. Our 2½-year-old happy daughter/her wonderful sitter. Available: solo a.m., shared p.m., combination. Flexible hours/location. We live on Hill Street, Noe Valley. Jody or Marc, 826-1152.

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Vegetarian Cooking Classes: 285-1831.

Pranayama and Meditation. Six-week class presents the basics of meditation and breathing practices. Discover for yourself how these practices can improve the quality of your life, raise your standard of health, and bring new clarity and dynamism to your mind. Please register in advance. Send tuition, name, and phone number. Wednesdays, beginning Sept. 11, 7:30 to 9 p.m., \$42. Integral Yoga Institute, 770 Dolores St. (415) 821-1117.

Anxious? Depressed? Seasoned therapist specializing in the cognitive-behavioral treatment of anxiety difficulties (stress management, high anxiety, panic, agoraphobia, specific fears), and depression. Noe Valley. Insurance accepted. Valerie Hearn, Ph.D. 824-3701.

Bed and Breakfast, quaint garden suite, spacious, front room, full kitchen, big bedroom and office area, laundry room, modern bathroom, ornamental gas fireplace, arched window view of garden with flowers, ground level, parking, separate entrance, quiet, near 26th and Sanchez, close to shopping and transportation, privacy. Additional rooms available. Call 206-0202.

Voice Lessons in Noe Valley: Learn to sing and improve your technique with Sigmund Seigel, tenor. San Francisco Opera Company, master of music degree. Beginning to advanced lessons in classical, Broadway, pop, at reasonable rates. Call 285-3779.

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Need Help Organizing Chaos? Cleaning or dispersing your possessions? Museum Collection Managers—experienced in caring for, storing, and moving objects, photos, and archives—will clear away your clutter. Call: Overmire Associates, (415) 837-1203. North Beach office.

Bed and Breakfast: Noe and Eureka Valleys. Garden studio. View. 826-1158.

Furniture Wanted. I need old dressers, tables, desks, etc. Will repair and/or refinish if necessary. Paying cash. Karen, 647-6157.

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Overwhelmed by Clutter, bills, closets? Professional organizing team to the rescue. We offer expert, simple solutions to what goes where. Desks, closets, relocations, garages, kitchens, filing systems, and more. Free phone consultation. Call ShipShape, 550-0658.

Supportive Therapy for individuals and couples. If you're struggling with relationship issues, anxiety, parenting problems, life transitions, or other concerns, I can help. Affordable fees. Mary Pat Power, M.F.C.C. (#32417), 974-9838.

Yoga in Noe Valley: Many classes and times, in the wonderful Vini yoga style! Special classes for arthritis, and private lessons. New Dawn Yoga Therapy. 285-1831.

Kitty Hilton: Treat your cats to full-time loving attention at our home while you're away. As our clients can attest, their cats love to return again and again. Call Beth at 285-6857. References available.

New Money for Old Wood Furniture, rugs, and household items and collections. Rose or Jim, (415) 824-1180.

Beautiful Noe Valley Apartment available for sublet Aug. 31 to Sept. 14. Call 285-6914.

Interested in Getting Started on the Internet, but not sure where to begin? Maybe you're online, but feeling lost. I specialize in getting women on the Information Superhighway. Don't be left behind! Private lessons are \$20/hour. 285-4557.

Housecleaning Available. Reliable, professional, great references. Call for Rosauya, (415) 255-8506.

Indonesian Teak Cabinets, baskets, and pottery for sale. Call 285-7240.

Office Space in Glen Park across from Bart, five minutes from Noe Valley. Share rental (one-person space). Casual professionals. \$275 per month includes utilities. Great location and building! 334-3802. 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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Live-In Child Care. Loving and trained aupairs. AuPair Homestay offers security and the legal option. Monthly arrivals. Approximately \$207 per week for full-time care. Carol: (415) 349-2996.

Relocating? We take the frazzle out of moving. From packing to set-up, we will handle any and all of the details of your move. Call for a free consultation. ShipShape, 550-0658.

Stereo Repair: Save time, money! Offering in-home repairs at reasonable rates. Formerly with Pacific Stereo; now serving the San Francisco community for 12 years. Evening/weekend appointments available. Thorough, conscientious, guarantees, references. Gene's Sound Service, 553-3751.

Rental Short-Term: Noe Valley view location; private entrance garden suite with bedroom, living room, bath, kitchenette, plus full kitchen and laundry. Weekly, monthly rates. 285-7189.

Vacation Retreat for Noe Valleyans. Calistoga/St. Helena area; three bedrooms, two baths, sleeps six (maximum); large decks with views of stream/forest; fireplace with wood supplied; 30 acres, trails, all-year stream, koi pond; \$250/two-night weekend; \$275/three-night weekend; \$75/night mid-week; two-night minimum: \$500/week, \$1,500/month; 10 percent discount to all repeat guests. 647-3052.

New Improved Noe's Nest Bed and Breakfast. Unit A: private entrance, private bath, kitchenette, queen bed. Cozy and quiet. Unit B: view, private bath, deck, fireplace, hot tub, queen bed. Unit C: ultra-view, private bath, steam room, parlor, king bed, fireplace, and deck. All with cable and VCR. Masseuse and day care available. Contact Sheila, 821-0751.

Custom Upholstery and furniture refinishing. Excellent work quickly done. Free estimate, pickup and delivery. One-Eyed Jacks, 1645 Market St. Visit or call 621-4390.

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Living Tai Chi Chuan of Noe Valley. Unique approach for holistic balance. Beginners Tuesday and Thursday, 6 p.m., \$5 introduction. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. Chris Sequeira, 23 years' experience. (415) 756-6857, (415) 773-8185.

Gourmet Vegetarian Cuisine delivered to your doorstep. Diverse menus, naturally low in fat, cholesterol, and salt. Treat yourself right! Gift certificates available. For a monthly menu call Jane, 826-2133.

Slipcovers & Window Treatments. High-quality custom sewing services since 1980. Pillows, table skirts, bed dressings. Also unique clothing designs, weddings, tailored garments, copy your favorite item! Frippery. Designs by Wendy L. Miller. (415) 648-8514.

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Health Insurance. Free quotes for individuals, families, and businesses—Blue Cross/Shield, alternative care, 'A'-rated plans, Medicare supplements, long-term care. Let an expert agent assist you at no extra cost! Call Bill Hannant, 647-7012.

Charlie the Phone Guy. Residence and business telephone systems, fax/modem lines, office-in-home. Dead phone jacks brought back to life. Separate jacks for roommates. Free estimates. Noe Valley resident. Call 641-8654.

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How to Use Voice Class Ads

The rate for classified advertising in *The Noe Valley Voice* is 25¢ a word. Just type or print your copy, multiply the number of words by 25¢ (we trust you), enclose a check or money order for the full amount, and mail it to us by the 15th of the month preceding the month in which you'd like the ad to appear. Please let us know whether your ad is a renewal from the preceding issue. But be sure to give us the full ad copy, in any case.

Reward for Loyalty: The *Voice* prints a news edition 10 months a year (January and August are vacation months.) If you decide to place the same class ad in 10 issues, you are entitled to a 10 percent discount. When figuring your cost, deduct 10 percent from the total amount due for 10 issues.

The Next Voice will be the October 1996 issue, coming out Wednesday, Oct. 2. To place a class ad, mail the text of your ad and a check payable to the *Noe Valley Voice*, so that we receive it by Sept. 15. The address is **Voice Class Ads, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114**. Sorry, but we are unable to accept phone orders.

Class advertisers should keep in mind that only the first few words of the ad (not to exceed one line of type) will be set in boldface type. Also, receipts and tear sheets will be provided only if your order is accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Thank you. □

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Fatherhood — Is It for Me? Do you wonder whether or not you want to be a father and have no place to explore your thoughts and feelings? Work for eight structured sessions to explore

Fiction

On Line

Jane Ellen Rubin

DID YOU KNOW," the woman behind me asks, "that the number-one most popular poem ever written is *Tyger* by William Blake?"

I am standing on line at the Venus movie theater on a Sunday morning to buy a ticket to the half-price matinee showing of *Sense and Sensibility*, so I suppose a literary comment isn't too far off the mark. Still, it seems weird as a conversational gambit to a stranger, so I turn my head to be sure this is being directed to me. It is. My urban hush survival skills guide me to be polite but wary.

"No. I didn't," I say. I look down, rather than make eye contact, and I notice that we are wearing the same shoes—Nike cross-trainers with teal and purple lightning bolts on the sides. Mine are scuffed and raggedy, but hers look brand new, and have bright yellow laces, and one of those little pouches to put your key and a quarter in. I know new shoes are bound to look new, but the laces are a voluntary addition. They don't come that way.

"I bought this book of the 100 most popular poems last night at Barnes & Noble. It seemed like good information to have. Most of them are by dead men, but I think William Blake is okay—he did all those great drawings and took drugs."

"I think Coleridge is the one who took drugs," I say. The words fly out of my mouth, the reflex reaction of an ex-English major, and it's too late now to disengage.

"Maybe you're right." She looks troubled, but then her expression brightens. "Or maybe they both took drugs."

The Venus has been carved up, in the modern style, from one large theater into five tiny chambers, but there's still only one ticket seller. So you wait in line with fidgety little kids going to see the latest Disney and rowdy big kids going to see the latest Stallone. It's pretty easy to guess who's going to see what film.

"Anyhow," she continues, "we seem to both know a lot about writers. I'm a great fan of Jane Austen. I loved *Pride and Prejudice* when they made us read it in high school, and I read this one all by myself."

I am saved from responding by a distraction. A mini-school bus pulls up to the curb, and a group of mentally disabled adults emerges with a counselor. He gathers them under the marquee, and tells them to wait right there, repeating this loudly three times, before he walks to the end of the ticket-huying line. He keeps looking over his shoulder, as if he expects them to bolt the instant his back is turned.

One of the group, a short, stout woman in a long overcoat, takes charge. She peers through thick glasses at the display posters, and reads the credits aloud with the dramatic flair of a voice-over announcer. She mispronounces many of the names. None of the others seems aware of this and they all listen attentively, except for one man who stands some distance away and puffs frantically on a cigarette without ever removing it from his lips. He appears to have no teeth, and it is not a pretty sight.

"Look at that old guy," the woman behind me says. "He looks scared. I bet they're not allowed to smoke where they live, or maybe they're not allowed to smoke at all. I don't think it's fair. Even if he is retarded and doesn't know any better, he should be able to smoke if he wants to."

"He is smoking," I reply. I smoke myself, but I've been chastened enough in recent

THE LAST PAGE

years, so that I usually refrain in public situations, even if it's technically legal, like standing outside in front of a movie theater. But at this moment, I feel as if I really need a cigarette, so I take her comment as permission and light up.

My line companion does not react to this, but looks at her watch. "When I first started coming here," she says, "I always expected the films to be longer than they turned out to be, because the starting time for the second show was about three hours after the first show. Then I realized that they do that because the first show never starts when it's supposed to."

She does have a point. The line is still not moving. The Venus doesn't only sell cut-rate tickets, it hires cut-rate staff—surly teenagers with distracted attitudes, who show up for work at the last possible moment. Often the box office doesn't open until past the time the movies are scheduled to begin, and then you have to wait in the lobby until the previous night's empty popcorn tubs are swept out from under the seats. But I have an odd affection for it because it is one of the last movie theaters in the city not to have been sucked up by a mega-corporation. So I feel called upon to come to its defense.

"That's true," I reply, "but they are very good about waiting until the whole line gets into the theater before they start the film, and it gives you a chance, if you're a little late. So I think it works out okay."

She listens carefully and then nods. "You're right," she says. "One time last year when the line was really long, I think it was for *Bridges of Madison County*, they sent someone out to let everyone know that they would hold off showing the movie until we all got inside."

"Wasn't that a dreadful book," I find myself saying. Although I am still reluctant to encourage conversation, it beats listening to the nearsighted woman's enthusiastic recitation or watching the toothless man smoke. "I only went to see the movie because I like Meryl Streep, but I thought she was much better in *Sophie's Choice*."

Now that I've committed myself to further interaction, I look at her more intently. I notice that in addition to having the same shoes on, we are both dressed the same, in jeans and a sweatshirt. Like the shoes, my jeans are much more worn and obviously have a longer history than hers,

which look kind of stiff, and still have that deep blue color. My sweatshirt says "Crimson Crew Team," and hers says "Hard Rock Cafe." I don't expect that anyone really believes that I ever rowed for Harvard, and I don't believe that she has ever been inside the Hard Rock Cafe. In fact, it occurs to me, from the "unnatural" condition of her wardrobe, that she might be recently released from an institution, or maybe from a convent, though I doubt that a nun would have been allowed to go see *Bridges of Madison County*.

I have time to conjecture on this mystery, because she is silent for several moments, contemplating my comments as if they merit some profound response. But when she does speak, all she says is, "I've never read *Sophie's Choice*, and I didn't see the movie either." Her tone is very clipped. She turns slightly away from me, and I do the same. I should be relieved, but since she was the one who started all of this, I'm puzzled and even a little hurt.

The counselor returns to check on his group. He seems satisfied that the "reading" woman is keeping everyone occupied, but he glares at the smoker and yells at him to put the cigarette out. The man removes it from his mouth and holds it behind his back. As soon as the counselor walks away, he resumes his puffing.

The counselor's manner isn't very sympathetic, and I find the smoker's act of rebellion pleasing. I can't help smiling and glancing at my neighbor to see if she has seen this too. It's hard to know because she looks down quickly and is now studying my shoes. I think this is all for the best. She's clearly somewhat unstable, and since my "ex-nun" theory is flawed, my institutional diagnosis is probably correct.

Apparently, her personality disorder includes major mood swings, or perhaps she too has now taken note of our matching footwear and decided that we are kindred spirits after all, because she suddenly looks up and asks, "Do you want to sit together?"

Now this is very awkward. I go to the movies alone because I like to go to the movies alone. It avoids all those careful discussions about sharing what size of popcorn, butter or no butter, which row of seats. I only have one friend who is in total sync with me on these issues—medium, with butter, eighth row from the front—and she lives in Oregon.

"I probably sit too close for you," I answer. "It's a vision problem." Great, now I'm lying to this strange woman, and I'll have to sit in the first row to make my story look good.

"Oh, I like to sit close too," she says. "It makes everything more immediate, and that's kind of the point, isn't it? Otherwise, it's like TV."

Oddly enough, I agree with her. I like being engulfed by the film. And besides, tall people usually don't come and sit in front of you. But this has gotten out of hand, and I'm feeling trapped. I look around for help, and salvation comes in the form of a teenage boy in a wrinkled maroon jacket who has emerged from the locked theater lobby. He has bad skin and a worse attitude.

Apparently, her personality disorder includes major mood swings, or perhaps she too has now taken note of our matching footwear, because she suddenly looks up and asks, "Do you want to sit together?"

"Form a single line and have your money ready," he repeats over and over, totally ignoring the fact that we are in a single line and have been ready for a long time. "Hey, you people," he shouts at the group still obediently gathered under the marquee, "get on line right now or you won't get in to the picture." Some of them look panicked and immediately begin to move toward the end of the line, but the stout reading woman herds them back reminding them that the counselor has made it clear that they are to wait right there. They wander to and fro, voices raised in a babble of indecision.

"What dummies," he says loudly. "Stupid retards."

"You think they're dumb?" says my neighbor. "Can you tell me what the number-one most popular poem ever written is?" The usher stares at her for a moment, opens and closes his mouth, then walks back into the lobby.

I look directly in her eyes, and she looks back at me. We both smile, and I don't care if she is a liberated nun or deinstitutionalized schizophrenic, or just another lonely person dressed in jeans and a sweatshirt and going to the movies by herself on a Sunday morning.

"Sure," I say, "let's sit together."

The line starts to move.

Poetry

At 140 Duboce 10 Were Infected

Craig Brock

Like a spine
through this charnel house
winds the padded stair.
The carpets snuff our protests
our labor is in err.
We ought bowl skulls through the halls,
and trim our doors with bunting,
and outside paste a placard
post our record as a warning.

Craig Brock lives in San Francisco.

Jane Ellen Rubin is the executive director of the San Francisco Ethics Commission and a writer of poetry, essays, and fiction. She moved from New York City to San Francisco last year and lives in the Richmond District, "although everyone tells me I ought to live in Noe Valley."

Writers

The Noe Valley Voice invites you to submit fiction, literary nonfiction, or poetry for possible publication on The Last Page. Please mail your manuscript, which should be typed, double-spaced, and no more than 1,500 words, to The Noe Valley Voice, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Don't forget to send a phone number. We look forward to hearing from you.